

Wabash Plain Dealer

THURSDAY
JANUARY 9, 2020

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WPD



**Pulse
of Wabash**

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Check out our new website at www.wabashplaindealer.com and let us know what you think. Stories older than a few weeks are not yet available but will be soon. If you had an account on our previous site, you will need to create a new account. If you registered with the same email address we will be able to locate your previous subscription as well. Once registered, you can also verify your subscription. Please contact web support@wabashplaindealer.com with any questions. Thank you!

Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

Artists sought for Honeywell Foundation's art competition

The Honeywell Foundation's Clark Gallery will be hosting its annual 92 County Art Show from Thursday, Jan. 9 through Wednesday, Feb. 19. A public reception for this event will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020. For more information, contact Michele Hughes at mhughes@HoneywellFoundation.org or call the Honeywell Center Box Office at 260-563-1102.

'Death by Chocolate' auditions set; tickets on sale

The Wabash Area Community Theater's auditions for the winter comedy "Death by Chocolate" will be held on from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, in the Honeywell Center. For the show itself, doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7; and doors will open at noon and dinner is at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 8. Tickets are on sale now at the Charley Creek Inn reception desk. For more information, call Bruce Rovelstad at 260-330-0543 or Bev Vanderpool at 765-661-8206.

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Making it a 'Night to Shine'



PROVIDED PHOTOS

PROM: At last year's event, there were 113 guests and over 300 volunteers.

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ to host prom for people with special needs

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ announced they will serve as one of nearly 671 churches around the world already registered to host Night to Shine 2020, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, according to Janet Legesse, early childhood minister.

This event will be hosted through local churches across the globe simultaneously on Friday, Feb. 7.

In response to a Plain Dealer request Wednesday, Legesse stated this is their second year hosting the Night to Shine event. At last year's event, there were 113 guests and over 300 volunteers.

Legesse stated this year's event will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. at Northfield High School, 154 W. 200 North.

"Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages 14 and older," stated Legesse. "Bachelor Creek is excited to be a part of this worldwide movement that is uniting churches of different

denominations all over the world with the common goal of celebrating people with special needs."

Every guest of Night to Shine enters this complimentary event on a red carpet complete with a warm welcome from a friendly crowd and paparazzi.

"Once inside, guests receive the royal treatment, including hair and makeup stations, shoe shining areas, limousine rides, corsages and boutonnieres, a catered dinner, karaoke, prom favors, a dance floor, all leading up to the moment when each guest is crowned king or queen of the prom," stated Legesse.

As a sponsor of Night to Shine, the Tim Tebow Foundation will provide each host church with the official 2020 Night to Shine Planning Manual, personalized guidance and support from a Tim Tebow Foundation staff member and access to free and discounted resources that will assist them in creating an unforgettable night for their

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EVENT: This year's event will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. at Northfield High School, 154 W. 200 North.

Probationary trooper assigned to the ISP Peru Post

STAFF REPORT

On Dec. 19, 2019, 37 probationary troopers from the 79th Indiana State Police (ISP) Recruit Academy graduated. One of those officers, Dakota Anderson, is assigned to the Indiana State Police Peru Post and has started three months of field training with veteran officers, according to a press release.

During his 25 weeks of training, Anderson received over 600 hours of classroom

instruction as well as nearly 400 hours of hands-on practical scenario-based training.

Some areas of training included criminal and traffic law, crash investigations, emergency vehicle operations, defensive tactics, firearms, and a host of other subjects related to modern policing.

Anderson is now assigned to train with veteran troopers for the next 13 weeks before being released on solo patrol.

Anderson is a 2013 graduate of Tri-Central High School in Tipton County. He and his wife currently reside in Howard County.

Individuals who are interested in a rewarding career as an Indiana state trooper should go online at <http://www.in.gov/isp/careers>. This website will provide a detailed synopsis of the application process as well as career information about the Indiana State Police Department.



PROVIDED PHOTO

TRAINING: Dakota Anderson, is assigned to the Indiana State Police Peru Post and has started three months of field training with veteran officers.

Indiana teen gets 65 years in pregnant schoolmate's killing

SOUTH BEND (AP) — A 17-year-old northern Indiana boy has been sentenced to 65 years in prison in the fatal stabbing of a schoolmate who was pregnant with his child.

St. Joseph Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Hurley sentenced Aaron Trejo on Tuesday to 55 years for murder and 10 years for feticide after weighing several factors, including the violent nature of

the crime. Those sentences will run consecutively, with no time suspended.

Trejo, who was charged as an adult, pleaded guilty in October to murder and feticide in Breana Rouhselang's 2018 killing. Prosecutors said Trejo told officers he killed Rouhselang because he was angry that she waited so long to tell him she was pregnant that it was too late to get an abortion.

"You took her life in one of the most savage and violent manners I have seen in my career," Hurley told Trejo before announcing his sentence.

Trejo and Rouhselang were Mishawaka High School classmates in December 2018 when authorities said they argued over her pregnancy. Her body was discovered in a dumpster behind a restaurant near her home in

Mishawaka, about 80 miles east of Chicago. A trash bag had been placed over her head and upper torso, according to court documents.

Rouhselang's mother, Melissa Wallace, had asked the judge to sentence her daughter's killer to life in prison.

"I'm glad we got justice for Bre," she said after Tuesday's hearing. "But no amount of time will ever replace what he took from me."

Second Harvest tailgate set for Senior Center

Food distribution
will last from 11 a.m.
to 1 p.m. Friday

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana will provide food for families in need at a tailgate distribution from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, at the Dallas L. Winchester Senior Center, Living Well in Wabash County, 239 Bond St., according to Jackson Eflin, marketing coordinator.

Participants must enter the drive-through line from the Hill Street entrance of the city park. The distribution is while supplies last, and there is a limit of three families per vehicle.

No tailgate distributions will take place when the wind-chill is reported to be below 0 degrees or the heat index is reported to be 100 degrees.

"The items received at a tailgate event are meant to be supplemental items only. They are not meant to be complete meals. Fresh fruits and/or vegetables are often provided," stated the Eflin.

In response to a recent Plain Dealer request, Eflin, stated the total number of Wabash County residents served for 2019 as of November was 5,086 families and 11,250 people. The totals for 2018 were 3,821 families and 12,196 people. The totals for 2017 were 4,446 families and 14,384 people.

See **TAILGATE** / Page A2

Health officials urge residents to test for radon

January is National
Radon Action Month

STAFF REPORT

Radon, a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in most soil, is the second-leading cause of lung cancer among smokers and the number-one cause among non-smokers, according to a press release.

It is responsible for more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths in the U.S. each year, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) estimates.

January is National Radon Action Month, and the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is urging homeowners to test their homes for radon because this tasteless, colorless and odorless gas can build up in homes without residents' knowledge.

Indiana residents can purchase a short-term test kit for as little as \$15 from the American Lung Association through its website. Test kits also can be purchased at most home improvement and hardware stores and through some online retailers.

Radon enters homes and other buildings through small cracks and holes in the foundation, where it becomes trapped and accumulates in the air. When people breathe in radon, it damages the lungs. Long-term exposure can eventually cause lung cancer.

Because radon has no taste,

See **RADON** / Page A2

Indiana may toughen retailer penalties with 21 smoking age

BY TOM DAVIES
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana lawmakers are looking to toughen the penalties stores face for selling tobacco products to underaged customers as they raise the state’s minimum age for smoking and vaping from 18 to 21 to conform with the new federal law.

A proposal backed by anti-smoking advocates would also eliminate the possible fines against minors caught with tobacco or electronic cigarettes, saying those aren’t fair to youths who may have become addicted.

Proposals to raise Indiana’s smoking age have failed to advance among lawmakers for several years, but Congress’ decision last month to raise the legal age to 21 has made opposing it on a state level moot, and Republican leaders of the Indiana House and Senate are endorsing proposals with tougher penalties.

Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb, who announced his support for increasing the age limit before the congressional

action, said the state law needs to be updated with additional penalties for selling to those younger than 21.

“It has been some time since we’ve beefed up those enforcement levels, since about 2008, so I think that’s long overdue as well,” Holcomb said.

The state law is partly enforced through spot checks by the Alcohol & Tobacco Commission’s state excise police. Stores can be fined or barred from selling tobacco or vaping liquids for repeat violations.

A bill being considered Wednesday by the House Public Health Committee would boost the fine against a retailer for a first violation from a \$200 maximum to a minimum of \$500. The penalties would increase until a third violation within three years, which would carry a minimum \$1,000 fine and a three-year loss of the store’s tobacco sales certificate. It also would prohibit new tobacco sales outlets from opening within 1,000 feet of a school.

A separate Senate bill would

increase the fines against violators but doesn’t include the sales license revocations.

Health advocacy groups support a provision in the House bill that would eliminate possible tickets for underage tobacco possession, said Danielle Patterson, a lobbyist for the American Heart Association of Indiana. Tobacco possession should be treated differently than alcohol possession, partly because of longtime marketing of tobacco and vaping products targeting teens and young adults, she said.

“It is unfair to punish them when these companies have systematically gone after them,” Patterson said.

The Tobacco Free Indiana coalition, which includes the Heart Association and numerous other groups, have also pushed for raising the state’s cigarette tax as a way of fighting its 21.8 percent smoking rate among adults that was the 7th highest in the country for 2017, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



CARPET: Every guest of Night to Shine enters this complimentary event on a red carpet complete with a warm welcome from a friendly crowd and paparazzi.

PROM

Continued from A1

guests. The foundation also has committed nearly \$3.5 million in financial support to hundreds of churches needing assistance in hosting the event.

Night to Shine has experienced incredible growth, now in its sixth year of existence. The event launched in 2015 with 44 host churches and 15,000 volunteers honoring more than 7,000 kings and queens of the prom. This past February, 655 host churches and 200,000 volunteers came together to celebrate 100,000 honored guests with special needs. The Tim Tebow Foundation anticipates 800 churches to sign up to host the event taking place this coming February.

For additional information on the Night to Shine hosted by Bachelor Creek Church of Christ in Wabash, visit www.bachelorcreek.com.

For more information on the worldwide movement of Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, visit <http://www.timtebowfoundation.org/index.php/night-to-shine/>.



GLOBAL: This event will be hosted through local churches across the globe simultaneously on Friday, Feb. 7.

TAILGATE

Continued from A1

Eflin stated the following remaining 2020 dates have been planned for tailgates at the Dallas L. Winchester Senior Center in addition to Friday’s event:

- Friday, Feb. 14
- Friday, March 13
- Thursday, April 9
- Tuesday, May 5

This Second Harvest Tailgate is a collaborative effort between Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana, The Community Foundation of Wabash County and Living Well in Wabash County.

“Tailgates are not possible without the help of dedicated volunteers,” stated Eflin.

Donations can be made online <http://curehunger.org/get-involved/donate/> as well as mailed to 6621 N. Old Indiana 3, Muncie, IN 47303.

To learn how you can help, call Ryan Wagner at 260-563-4475.

don, visit the ISDH’s radon page at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/24346.htm> and the EPA’s

“A Citizen’s Guide to Radon” at <https://www.epa.gov/radon/publications-about-radon>.

THE ROXY MOVIE THEATER

Roxy 5 Showtimes for Thursday, January 3 - Thursday, January 9
All showtimes have Closed Captioning available.

Star Wars: Episode IX - The Rise of Skywalker in 2D (PG13) Fri-Sat: 12:25, 3:25, 6:10, 6:50, 9:10, 9:55 Sun-Thurs: 12:25, 3:25, 6:10, 6:50 Mon: 6:10, 6:50 Tues: 6:10 Wed: 6:10, 6:50 Thurs: 6:10	Spies in Disguise (PG) Fri-Sat: 12:45, 3:45, 6:40, 9:30 Sun: 12:45, 3:45, 6:40 Mon-Thurs: 6:40	Jumanji: The Next Level in 2D (PG13) Fri-Sat: 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05 Sun: 1:10, 4:05, 7:05 Mon-Thurs: 7:05	Little Women (PG) Fri-Sat: 12:35, 3:35, 6:30, 9:40 Sun: 12:35, 3:35, 6:30 Mon-Thurs: 6:30	Frozen II in 2D (PG) Fri-Sun: 12:55, 3:55 Tues: 6:50 Thurs: 6:50
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5-Day Weather Summary

 Thursday Few Showers 49 / 41	 Friday Rain Likely 53 / 43	 Saturday Rain Likely 45 / 25	 Sunday Partly Cloudy 35 / 27	 Monday Mostly Cloudy 44 / 33
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Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 5:38 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 8:12 a.m.

 Full 1/10	 Last 1/17	 New 1/24	 First 2/1
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Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see cloudy skies with a 45% chance of showers, high of 49°, humidity of 61%. South wind 15 to 22 mph. Expect cloudy skies tonight with a 100% chance of rain, overnight low of 41°. South wind 13 to 21 mph. Friday, skies will be cloudy with a 100% chance of rain, high of 53°, humidity of 95%.

Check, please! Splitting the bill can be awkward

DEAR HARRIETTE: My family went out to dinner with friends of ours who were in town visiting. There were five of them and three of us, and the restaurant was kind of expensive. When it came time to pay the bill, it was a little awkward. Normally we would just split the bill, but the number of people in each party was so different. When I thought about it, though, I was OK with splitting it because we had drinks and the others drank water. (Alcoholic beverages always hike up the bill.)

Harriette Cole
Sense & Sensitivity



Our visitors ended up doing a partial split, where they paid a lot more than us. I guess it worked out, but I don’t know if I handled it as well as I should have. What is the best way to handle a situation like that? – Splitting the Bill

DEAR SPLITTING THE BILL: Whenever there is a group and people need to split the check, there can be an awkward moment.

The easiest thing to do is to take a quick glance at the check to get a sense of what you owe. If your portion is significantly smaller than the others’, you can offer to pay for your group plus a hearty tip and give the rest to the other people who are paying. You could also simply split it evenly (if you can afford to do so) – but that is not necessary. People go into situations

like that knowing who they want to pay for. If you are upfront about what you plan to do and quickly and proactively make it known what your intentions are for settling the check, chances are, the others will follow suit.

DEAR HARRIETTE: I always give a tip to the staff in my apartment building in the new year. I started this several years ago, when money was so tight that I couldn’t afford to give them money and buy gifts for my friends. Now it is just what I do. I noticed that one of the new guys has been looking at me kind of funny, and I think it’s because he didn’t get his tip from me yet. I plan to give out cards next week, but his attitude makes me want to skip him. It is not a requirement to tip, even though it is ex-

pected. Should I leave him out of my new year’s gifts, or just get over it? – Ready To Gift

DEAR READY TO GIFT: Even though this new staffer has a bad attitude, don’t let it sour your good humor. You know what your plan is. Include him in your building’s tips. If there are certain people who have a more difficult role in your building or who you are closer to, by all means tip them more generously. For this newbie, a basic tip is fine to show that you are thinking of him. He can earn a higher tip if he steps up and has a better attitude in the new year.

Harriette Cole is a stylist and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

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Newsroom

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How Jeremy Sisto keeps the CBS drama ‘FBI’ moving briskly

BY MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK — Kojak has his lollipop. Sherlock Holmes has his deerstalker cap. Jeremy Sisto has his pencil.

The actor often wields a long sharpened yellow pencil as he addresses a room full of federal agents on the hit CBS show “FBI.” His character will point with it or chew on it or make an exclamation with it, saying something like “C’mon people, dazzle me!”

“I’ve always liked props, and especially when there’s a lot of exposition, I try to hide that by doing things,” says the actor. “It just felt like something that would be really easy to shoot attention this way and shoot attention that way.”

Sisto’s pencil has made its way into popular culture. There was a suggestion this fall that a last-minute Halloween costume could be made just by tucking a pencil behind your ear and going as Sisto’s character, Jubal Valentine, FBI assistant special agent-in-charge. The pencil also has its own Twitter account.

“I had no idea people would sort of find as much fun in it as they have. But I think it’s really cool,” says Sisto. “Maybe they’ll make an action figure. That’s what I want: me with my pencil.”

Sisto is enjoying his second season on “FBI,” which represents his second time aboard a Dick Wolf procedural crime drama. Sisto joined Wolf’s “Law & Order” for the last three seasons, initially pairing with veteran Jesse L. Martin.

This time, he was present at the pilot of “FBI,” playing the glue that holds together each episode’s moving parts. As Valentine, Sisto is like an orchestra conductor and the pencil is his baton.

“On ‘Law & Order,’ I always liked being in the office trying to put the pieces together. And that’s what this is. It’s just a much more advanced version of that,” he says.

Sisto brings his special brand of spontaneity and electricity to the role. When he started on “Law & Order,” he asked that the first victim on his first show be his character’s brother. On the new show, his Valentine is dealing with divorce and alcoholism yet still holding together high-stakes federal cases.

Rick Eid, the executive producer and show runner of “FBI,” calls Sisto the heartbeat of the show and says he brings layers and complexity

to the character, as well as humor and honesty.

“I don’t know if it looks like it’s easy on TV, but it isn’t. He has chunks of dialogue he has to convey with urgency, with clarity and with purpose. And yet, at the same time, he does it with this unique personality and humor,” said Eid. “My simple rule to everybody is: We can’t write enough for the guy because he’s so good.”

One of Eid’s favorite recent episodes was when Sisto’s character was sponsoring an addict who was also an informant, a messy and ethically challenged situation. “You see the conflict in Jeremy’s eyes: What’s my role here? Am I an FBI agent? Or am I a sponsor?” says Eid. “He makes it look really honest. That’s the gift.”

Sisto’s career hasn’t been a flashy one but he’s had roles in some prominent films, including playing the high-school hunk who catches Alicia Silverstone’s eye in “Clueless” and Keri Russell’s loutish husband in “Waitress.”

It’s a career that has allowed Sisto to balance work and fatherhood. His kids — he has a son and daughter — aren’t always sure where he ranks. “They’re like, ‘Are you a star, dad? Are you famous?’ I’m like ‘ish,’” he says. “I’ve had a nice career. I’ve been able to work consistently.”

This winter, Sisto landed a role in one of the biggest films of the year. He voices Anna and Elsa’s grandfather in “Frozen 2,” the sequel to the animated Disney blockbuster. Sisto had done voice work before — he voiced the title bull’s father in “Ferdinand” — but this was different.

The original “Frozen” was a fixture in Sisto’s house, his daughter putting it “on a loop.” Dad surprised himself by liking it, too. Usually, he immediately dozed off whenever a kids’ movie was playing.

“I’d have two hours in the movie theater to get a little nap while they were watching the thing. But ‘Frozen’ never did that to me. ‘Frozen’ was always something I just really related to.”

Sisto has enjoyed enough success that choices he feared might be bad for his career are now cherished. Take “Clueless.” He thought he’d “be known for this one thing. And then that would sort of represent some kind of a failure because my career didn’t take off.”

U.S. companies added 202,000 jobs in December

BY JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

BALTIMORE — U.S. companies added 202,000 jobs in December, led by robust hiring in construction, trade, transportation and utilities, according to a private survey.

Payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that the bulk of the hiring was among smaller and mid-sized businesses with fewer than 500 employees. Hiring in November was also revised upward to 124,000, a sign that the job market was stronger than past surveys initially suggested.

Construction firms added 37,000 jobs in December. The trade, transportation and utilities sector added a combined 78,000. Health care and social assistance accounted for 46,000 new jobs.

Still, not every industry is hiring. Manufacturers shed

7,000 workers. Leisure and hospitality lost 21,000 jobs last month.

It typically takes roughly 100,000 or so new jobs a month to absorb population growth and keep the unemployment rate from rising.

Friday’s government employment report is expected to show an increase of 155,000 jobs with the unemployment rate holding at 3.5 percent. ADP’s figures don’t include government hiring and frequently diverge from the government’s official report.

But Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said the ADP figure was solid enough that the government report might show gains of 190,000.

“If sustained, that’s more than enough to push the unemployment rate down to new lows, and to add upward pressure to wage growth,” he said.

Hollywood-backed Quibi thinks you’ll pay for its video bites

BY MAE ANDERSON
and RACHEL LERMAN
AP Technology Writers

LAS VEGAS — A startup heavily backed by Hollywood is wagering that you’re ready to set aside YouTube and TikTok to watch star-studded short videos on your phone — for a price.

The company behind this billion-dollar bet is Quibi, which is preparing to offer movies, shows and other short form video designed for viewing in short bursts on mobile devices. It’s an enormous gamble, especially considering that several earlier efforts in mobile entertainment — most notably Verizon’s ill-fated Go90 service — fell flat.

Founded by former Disney studios chief and DreamWorks co-founder Jeffrey Katzenberg and helmed by former Hewlett Packard Enterprise CEO Meg Whitman, Quibi is heavy on big ideas and Hollywood muscle. It has backing from all the major movie studios and entertainment companies, \$1 billion invested in original programming, and star power in the form of creators and producers from Steven Spielberg to Chrissy Teigen.

Quibi plans to launch on April 6. It will charge \$5 a month for an ad-supported service, and \$8 a month for an ad-free version.

Company executives argued at CES that Quibi will offer the first entertainment

platform designed exclusively for the phone. In an interview at CES, Katzenberg said it represents the first time “professional storytellers” have tackled the problem of delivering a high-quality viewing experience on mobile.

But the big question is whether a subscription service like Quibi can attract mobile viewers — particularly younger ones — already immersed in an ocean of free-to-watch short video on YouTube and other social-media services. It will also go up against roughly a half-dozen other paid streaming platforms from Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Hulu to Disney Plus and upcoming services from WarnerMedia and NBC Universal.

During the keynote Quibi previewed shows including “Don’t Look Deeper,” a sci-fi show starring Don Cheadle and Emily Mortimer, and “#Freerayshawn” a crime thriller starring Laurence Fishburne as a cop and executive produced by “Training Day” director Antoine Fuqua. Shows and movies, as well as other material like news and weather, are designed to be watched in “quick bites” of 10 minutes or less.

“Paid premium short form (video)” has never been in the same sentence, it has never really been proven,” said Seth Shapiro, managing partner at Pacific Strategy Partners. “That’s the chal-

lenge.” Among other things, he noted, it’s already possible for people to watch those other services in the same quick bites Quibi plans.

Quibi executives at the CES gadget show in Las Vegas showed off technology on Wednesday designed to make video viewing on the phone easier. For instance, it will let you watch full-screen video whether you hold the phone upright or sideways.

Filmmakers deliver two edits to the company, one vertical, one horizontal, and Quibi stitches them together with one audio track. Some creators have incorporated that feature into their productions, as in one show in which horizontal viewing delivers a traditional picture — but turning the phone upright displays a view from the main character’s phone camera.

Advertisers, at least, are on board. Quibi said it has sold out its \$150 million first-year advertising slots to blue-chip companies including Procter & Gamble, Anheuser Busch, General Mills, Google, T-Mobile and Walmart. Ads will appear before shows and aren’t skippable.

Jeff Wlodarczak, principal analyst at Pivotal Research Group, says he understands why advertisers are flocking to the product. Millennials can be hard to reach, he said, and when a brand places ads on YouTube or Snapchat, they never quite know what kind of video they might

end up next to.

Quibi offers a safe place for advertisers by delivering a known quantity “as opposed to people doing something stupid on YouTube,” he said.

That advertising model will stick around, Whitman said. Quibi guarantees that all creators own their own intellectual property, and can repack-age it and take it wherever else they want after seven years. It brought creators in, but it also means that Quibi needs both subscriber dollars and advertising revenue to stay afloat.

The company just closed on another \$400 million equity funding round from investors, Whitman said, and has a plan to be profitable “soon.”

Others have tried short for m content, mostly in ad-supported form. Facebook Watch features original shows with episodes as short as 12 or 13 minutes, but none have garnered much buzz or mainstream attention so far. Verizon pulled the plug on Go90 in 2018, roughly three years after it launched; several concurrent efforts have also shut down. Meanwhile, Netflix, Amazon and Hulu have all been experimenting with short-form offerings, many of them in comedy.

Quibi is “either brilliant or tone deaf,” said Tim Hanlon, CEO of Vertere Group. “I just don’t know what the answer is and I don’t think anybody does.”

PULSE

Continued from A1

Frances Slocum Chapter of the DAR to meet

Wabash County’s Frances Slocum Chapter of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14 at the Grandstaff Hentgen Activity Room, 1241 Manchester Ave. The program will be presented by Beverly Ferry, CEO, Living Well in Wabash County. Prospective members and guests are always welcome to attend. For more information, call Linda Thompson at 260-563-4661 or Barbara Amiss at 260-982-4376.

Woman’s Clubhouse January luncheon set

The Women’s Clubhouse will host the monthly luncheon and program on “The Tradition Dulcimer” by Dan Daniels, New Traditions Dulcimer, at noon Tuesday, Jan. 14. This program is sponsored by Borders and Beyond. Please make reservations by phone to Carol McDonald at 260-563-2331 or Mary Delauter at 260-563-6613.

Red Cross plans blood donation opportunity for Jan. 17

The Red Cross has planned a blood donation opportunity from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17 at Whites Residential and Family Service, 5233 S. 50 East.

Swayzee Lions Club plans euchre event

The Swayzee Lions Club has planned a euchre event for Saturday, Jan. 18 at Swayzee United Methodist Church, 306 S. Washington St., Swayzee. The entry fee is \$12.50. Registration will last from noon to 12:45 p.m. Play begins at 1 p.m. There will be cash prizes for: Most Loners, Highest Score, Second Highest Score, 50-50 Drawing and two entry fee drawings. Soft drinks,

hot dogs, chips, popcorn and candy will be available for a donation. All proceeds support the Lions Club Scholarship Fund. For more information, call Joe Hamilton at 765-922-7280 or Terry Shaw at 765-667-4848.

Red Cross plans blood donation opportunity for Jan. 21

The Red Cross has planned a blood donation opportunity from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21 at First United Methodist Church, 110 N. Cass St.

Red Cross plans blood donation opportunity for Jan. 22

The Red Cross has planned a blood donation opportunity from 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 at Rich-valley Community Center, 56 W. Mill St.

Experience the ‘Silence of a Winter’s Night’

Enjoy the “Silence of a Winter’s Night” from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 at Salamonie Lake’s Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. The cost is \$10 per person, and space is limited. Advance registration is required by calling 260-468-2127.

Wabash Tri Kappa to sponsor 14th Annual Winter Gala

The gala will take place Saturday, Feb. 1, at Heartland REMC, 250 Wedcor Ave. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person and must be purchased by Tuesday, Jan. 28. Tickets may be purchased from Tri Kappa Members or at the following locations: Wabash City Hall, 202 S. Wabash St.; Friermood Tire & Alignment, 1699 Stitt St.; and the dental office of Dr. Bing M. Fowler DDS, 1911 S. Wabash St. For more information, call Beth Miller at 260-563-1128.

February Salamonie Senior Luncheon set

The monthly Salamonie Senior Luncheon will be held at noon on Monday, Feb. 3, at the Salamonie Lake Interpretive Center, at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Anyone age 50 or older is welcome to attend. Upper Wabash Interpretive Services interpretive naturalist Lynnanne Fager will share her personal experiences with Indiana bald eagles. The program begins with a carry-in meal at noon. Chicken and noodles and mashed potatoes will be provided. Guests should bring a side dish to share, a beverage and their own table service. A \$1 donation will be accepted. Reservations may be made by calling 260-468-2127.

Low Impact Fitness classes scheduled

Fitness that is both fun and free led by Mary Jo McClelland at 9:45 a.m. every Monday and Thursday, and 3 p.m. Wednesdays at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. There is no fee or registration required.

Cancer care advocate available every Tuesday

A cancer care advocate is available from 1 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Winchester Senior Center, 239 Bond St. No appointment is needed. This service is supported by the Hope Foundation and provided by Cancer Services out of Fort Wayne.

Yoga classes scheduled on Tuesdays

Yoga for those who are intermediate to experienced levels have been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. The cost is \$10, and discount passes are available.

DivorceCare to meet every Tuesday

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation’s foremost Christian

experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to a press release. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Room 112 in the Wabash Friends Church, 3563 South State Road 13. Group leader and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St. on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658 or group leader Janet Quillen at 260-571-5235; email office@wabashfriends.org; or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Komets game to celebrate Wabash County March 13

Wabash County will be the MVP during the third annual Wabash County Night at the Fort Wayne Komets game at 8:05 p.m. Friday, March 13 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave., Fort Wayne. While supplies last, tickets can be bought for \$15 per ticket at https://groupmatics.events/event/Wabashcommunity3 or by emailing Mitch Meinholz at mitch@komets.com or by calling 260-482-6812.

Wabash Kiwanis Club’s Pancake Day returns in March

The Wabash Kiwanis Club will once again host its annual Pancake Day, which is the local service organization’s largest annual fundraiser. The event will take place from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at the Bruce Ingraham building at the Wabash County Fairgrounds, located just off of Gillen Avenue. Tickets will be \$8 at the door and \$7 in advance for those ages 13 years and older, and \$5 at the door and \$4 in advance for children ages 6 to 12 years. Admission for the event will be free for children 5 years and younger.

Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

speak up

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
http://coats.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
http://braun.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

letters guidelines

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 123 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplainealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

inspiration corner

Daily scripture

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Iran crisis demands Donald Trump spell out endgame

In a crisis, Americans will follow a leader who has a plan and can lay out a clear path to a resolution.

Franklin Roosevelt offered this kind of clarity at the Casablanca conference of 1943, when he committed the United States to achieving nothing less than unconditional surrender of the Axis Powers. On a smaller scale, George H.W. Bush employed overwhelming firepower in 1991 to an uncomplicated goal, driving Iraqi troops from Kuwait. He did it in 100 hours, and his approval rating reached 89 percent.

Now it's Donald Trump's turn to spell out his endgame in Iran to Congress and the public.

After ordering the assassination of Iran's top general, Qassem Soleimani, the president needs to explain the way forward for what appears, for now, to be little more than retaliatory brinkmanship with high potential for escalation.

Without question, the world is better off without Soleimani. In the aftermath of the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, he was blamed for the deaths of more than 600 American troops, in large part by arming insurgents with specialized roadside bombs that could fire molten metal through armored vehicles, eviscerating soldiers riding inside.

Nevertheless, there are a lot of bad men in the world, from Syrian dictator Bashar Assad to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, and America isn't in the business of killing them all. In fact, the administrations of George W. Bush and Barack Obama both determined that the costs of assassinating Soleimani could well exceed the benefits.

Trump's Iran policy, meanwhile, has careened from major caution to

drastic reaction.

He crippled the only constraint on Iran's nuclear program by pulling out of a 2015 agreement, imposing severe economic sanctions to curtail Tehran's regional aggression. When that didn't work, Trump dispatched emissaries to seek talks and boasted that Islamic leaders were ready to make a deal.

In fact, reeling from sanctions, Iran chose to lash out – attacking or seizing oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, shooting down a U.S. military drone and briefly taking out half of Saudi Arabia's oil-refining capacity in a coordinated air assault.

Trump remained notably restrained through all of this, calling off a military counter strike in June 10 minutes before it was to be launched, actions that might have emboldened Iranian hard-liners. On Dec. 27, an Iranian-backed militia showered rockets onto a joint U.S.-Iraqi base, and an American contractor died. The United States responded with airstrikes that killed 25 militia fighters, and Iran-supported demonstrators temporarily laid siege to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

In the midst of this back-and-forth, Trump suddenly – and surprisingly, according to some advisers – ordered the killing of Soleimani, who was visiting Baghdad. State Department officials later said that Soleimani was planning "imminent attacks" and that his killing would de-escalate the Iranian crisis.

"It's very clear the world's a safer place today," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told ABC News.

In fact, that isn't clear at all. Nor is it clear whether the president acted impulsively, or whether he carefully thought through the ramifications.

Trump, who campaigned both as a

tough guy and a candidate opposed to foreign entanglements, finds himself sending thousands more U.S. troops into the Middle East as Iran vows to retaliate, either directly or, more likely, through proxy forces or cyber-attacks.

In Tehran, where there had been demonstrations against the regime in November, hundreds of thousands gathered Monday to mourn Soleimani, united in their hatred of America. And in Baghdad, an Iraqi parliament angered about a U.S. assassination carried out on its soil, voted to force out 5,000 U.S. troops deployed there to help fight the Islamic State terrorist group – a move that, if carried out, would boost Iranian influence over Iraq's struggling democracy.

Administration officials are finally scheduling a meeting with members of Congress on Wednesday to brief them on the Soleimani killing. There are a host of crucial questions: What was the proof Soleimani was planning imminent attacks? Has the threat ended with his death? And, most important, what's the ultimate goal?

It's difficult to predict where this is all headed. Perhaps the Soleimani killing will prove to be a necessary punch in the nose to deter a regional bully. But tit-for-tat actions, driven by notions of national pride and religious fervor, have a way of getting out of hand. Iranian leaders said they had 35 U.S. retaliatory targets to choose from. Not to be outdone, Trump said he has 52 Iranian targets in mind, including cultural sites.

Americans deserve to hear a better strategy than can be communicated by bursts of invective on Twitter.

This editorial was first published in USA Today.

Welcome to Donald Trump's war

This is what we feared, what we warned about. An erratic, petulant, clueless president, manifestly unfit to serve as commander in chief, has sparked a high-stakes international crisis. Welcome to Donald Trump's war.

Trump's decision to authorize the assassination of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani was typically rash and short-sighted. Blowing to smithereens a high-ranking official of a sovereign nation is, by any standard, an act of war. Doing so without any discernible plan for what to do next is an act of stupidity, one for which I fear we will pay dearly with American blood and treasure.

Think about it: The president of the United States has threatened to bomb Iran's priceless cultural sites, for no reason except spite and a desire to look "tough." How would that differ from what the Taliban did in Afghanistan? Is this the kind of foreign policy we're supposed to be proud of?

Trump campaigned on a promise to end our involvement in Middle East wars. Despite all his tough talk, he is so conflict-averse that he won't even fire aides who displease him in person, instead using emissaries and tweets. His instinct now will probably be to back off. But I worry that the events he has set in motion will have a logic and momentum of their own.

The administration's claim that Soleimani was planning "imminent" attacks against Americans cannot be believed, simply because nothing this administration says can be believed. It might be true. It also might be nothing more than a pretext for an impetuous and foolish action whose consequences Trump is not capable of fully thinking through.

How can I be so sure the president has no idea what he's doing? Because his Iran policy made no sense from the beginning.

He withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal, which offered at least the possibility of constructive engagement, apparently because it had been negotiated by the Obama administration. Trump is so insecure that he must pretend everything Barack Obama did was bad. Trump's new policy toward Iran was called "maximum pressure," a phrase with the kind of macho ring that Trump likes.

Punishing sanctions succeeded in crippling the Iranian economy, but to what end? They did not lead to Iran's capitulation. They did not lead to the fall of the Islamic revolutionary government. They did not end Tehran's support of proxy forces in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

Would Iran have moderated its behavior if the United States had offered carrots along with sticks? Maybe, maybe not. We'll never know.

But anyone familiar with the history of U.S.-Iran relations since 1979 would know there was no way the government in Tehran would just knuckle under. Stepped-up attacks against U.S. assets conveniently located in next-door Iraq, such as the Dec. 27 rocket attack that killed an American contractor, were contemptible and inexcusable – but predictable.

According to news reports, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo – long among the most implacable of Iran hawks – was one of the most insistent voices pressing Trump to greenlight the killing of Soleimani, despite the reservations of some U.S. military leaders. It may indeed be the case that Trump was goaded into this by advisers who played on his delicate ego by telling him anything else would make him look weak.

Pompeo is not the president, though. No matter who egged him on, Trump gave the order. And Trump will chart the way forward, God help us.

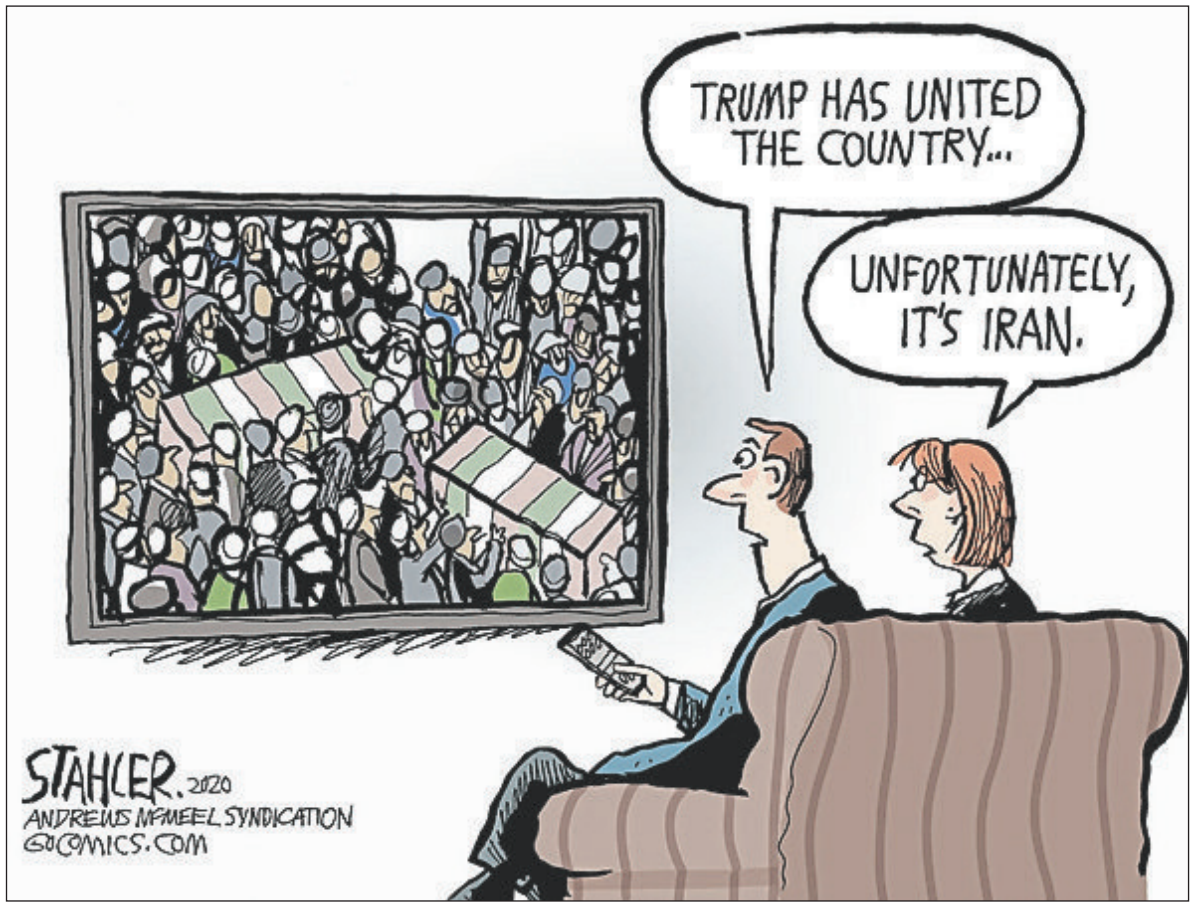
Is Trump trying to distract us from impeachment? Is he "wagging the dog" to try to win reelection? If so, not very skillfully. He's still impeached and still faces trial in the Senate. And this is far too early for a rally-round-the-flag election ploy. By November, the Soleimani assassination will be old news – and there will likely be thousands more U.S. troops deployed in the Middle East than there are now. Having promised to end our long-running wars, Trump will have kept all the old ones going and added a new one.

We can only hope it is a low-intensity war, not an apocalyptic one.

If you saw the images of millions of Iranians in the streets at Soleimani's funeral, you have to anticipate that Tehran will respond to his killing. Trump will then feel he must respond to the response. How far up the ladder this escalates depends on leaders, on both sides, having the sense to understand the need for proportion and restraint. Yet there is no evidence Trump even knows what those words mean.

Eugene Robinson's email address is eugenerobinson@washpost.com.

Eugene Robinson



The Indy 500: Preserving a celebration of competition

BY STEPHEN E. WILLIAMS

While other sports provide seedings and other advantages to favored participants (e.g. NFL playoffs, NCAA tournament), the Indianapolis 500 has demanded equality of opportunity, not crony capitalism. With few exceptions since 1911, the 33 fastest qualifiers start the race in the order of their qualifying times, no starting positions having been guaranteed to drivers, teams or sponsors despite their pedigree or connections.

This month, Roger Penske will finalize his purchase of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the IndyCar Series. Penske's acquisition of the Speedway has been praised universally. He is seen as someone who can bring more resources to the sport while upholding the traditions that fans hold dear.

Nevertheless, Penske has promised to "break some glass" in an effort to move the sport forward. Alarming, in 2019 as a car owner, Penske floated the idea of guaranteed starting places in the Indianapolis 500 for teams running the full IndyCar Series, so-called full-time teams. This is a form of Corporate Welfare that IndyCar fans should reject.

A major reason that the Speedway draws a live audience of over 300,000 people is that they know they will see the 33 fastest open-wheel cars on earth. They expect

this because it's been this way since 1911.

The idea of guaranteed spots flies in the face of this tradition of ultimate competition. 1986 champion Bobby Rahal has said that the most frightening thing he has ever done is qualify for the Indianapolis 500. In 1993, he failed to qualify. Other former winners also suffered this fate, among them three-time champion Johnny Rutherford and two-time winner Rodger Ward. In 1995, Penske's drivers Emerson Fittipaldi (two-time Indy winner and two-time Formula One World Champion) and Al Unser, Jr. (two-time Indy winner) failed to qualify.

In May of 2019 in the last minutes of qualifying, a 23-year-old American, Kyle Kaiser, bumped from the starting field the most heralded driver of his generation, two-time Formula One World Champion Fernando Alonso of Spain. Kaiser's team, Juncos Racing, had a budget that would seem like a rounding error compared to Alonso's team, McLaren Racing. This is precisely the type of competition that Indy fans deserve. Again, to deny them this with guaranteed spots threatens to lessen the Indy experience and diminish the audience both live and on television.

An alternative is to celebrate the competition, not eliminate it. This could be done in at least two ways.

First, the full-time team could be guaranteed the prize money paid for last place in the 500. Second, the full-time driver who gets bumped could be guaranteed a five-minute spot on the TV broadcast to tout his sponsors and explain the difficulty in qualifying for the biggest race in the world. These steps would address the teams' commercial interests without lessening the on-track competition.

Even the drivers who fail to qualify appreciate the necessity of starting the fastest 33 cars. Alonso, the world champion who missed the race in 2019, has stated that his primary goal for 2020 is to qualify for and win the Indianapolis 500. Alonso's high regard for the Speedway would be lessened if anyone with merely a large checkbook could qualify for the starting grid.

IndyCar fans must insist that the new ownership group place equality of opportunity before crony capitalism. As Kaiser said when he eliminated Alonso: "This is absolutely the greatest story of my life." The Speedway cannot deny this experience to Indy fans or the next Kyle Kaiser. Let us continue to celebrate the competition of the Indy 500.

Stephen E. Williams, a founder of the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, is a partner in Emmswiler Williams Noland & Clarke, LLC and an avid Indy car fan. He wrote this at the request of the foundation.

Good morning scones

BY LYNDA BALSLEV

If it's not broken, then don't fix it. This pertains to great recipes, baking techniques and, more specifically, these scones. I discovered this recipe years ago, published by Cooks Illustrated/America's Test Kitchen, and it's a keeper. Since then, I have made these scones countless times with only the tiniest of tweaks. And, like any tradition worth repeating, these dense, moist and crumbly scones have become a part of our breakfast rotation when the family is gathered together over the holidays, when it's a wintry day outside, or we are expecting friends for brunch.

The technique is specific – namely, all ingredients should be as cold as possible. And while the method has steps that dance around this requirement, the good news is that the scones can be formed and cut, and then frozen in advance of baking. Simply pop them into zipper bags and freeze for up to one month. The morning of serving, remove the scones from the freezer and bake them frozen, adding an additional five minutes or so for baking to compensate for their chilliness.

The original recipe calls for blueberries, which are a lovely springtime addition. I am partial to currants, so often

add them instead, along with a generous sprinkle of lemon zest.

Currant Scones

Active Time: 45 minutes
Total Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Yield: Makes 8
2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 cup whole milk
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 cup (8 tablespoons) frozen butter, plus 2 tablespoons melted butter for brushing
1/2 cup dried currants
Turbinado sugar for sprinkling

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, lemon zest, salt and baking soda in a medium bowl and stir to blend.

Whisk the milk and sour cream in a separate bowl and refrigerate while you grate the butter.

Coarsely grate the frozen butter and place in a bowl. Freeze for 5 minutes and then add the butter to the flour mixture. Quickly mix with the tips of your fingers to combine. Pour in the milk and stir until just combined.

Transfer the mixture to a floured work surface and

knead several times until the dough holds together in a ragged ball. Roll the dough out into a 12-inch square, adding a little flour as needed. Fold the dough 3 ways into a rectangle, like a business letter, using a metal spatula to lift the dough from the surface as necessary. Fold the short ends of the dough into the center, overlapping, so you have an approximate 4-inch square. Freeze the dough for 5 minutes.

Roll the dough out again on a floured surface into a 12-inch square. Sprinkle the currants over the dough, lightly pressing them in to adhere. Roll the dough up into a tight log, then press into a 12-by-4-inch rectangle. Cut the rectangle into 4 equal sections and then cut each section on the diagonal to form 8 triangles.

If freezing, place the triangles in one layer in a large zipper bag, press the air out, and freeze for up to 1 month. When ready to bake, remove from the freezer and proceed with next step.

Transfer the triangles to a parchment-lined baking sheet. Brush the tops with the melted butter and sprinkle with the turbinado sugar. Bake on the middle rack of the oven until the tops and bottoms are golden, about 20 minutes (or 25 to 27 minutes if frozen).



PROVIDED PHOTO BY LYNDA BALSLEV FOR TASTEFOOD

SCONES: The morning of serving, remove the scones from the freezer and bake them frozen, adding an additional five minutes or so for baking to compensate for their chilliness.

Almond-crusted baked chicken tenders

BY SONJA GOEDKOOP

For your upcoming Super Bowl party, try our healthier version of deep-fried chicken fingers. These lightened-up, baked almond-crusted chicken tenders are flavorful, crunchy and a definite crowd pleaser (you don't even have to let on that they are better for you). Nuts like almonds contain heart-healthy unsaturated fats, fiber and vitamin E, and are known for their antioxidant properties. Pair with veggies and Greek yogurt-based dips for a healthy, delicious super snack spread.

Chicken Tenders

Ingredients:
1 1/4 cup almonds
2 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. smoked paprika
1 tsp. dried mustard
1 tsp. dried oregano
1 tsp. dried thyme
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. black pepper
2 eggs, beaten
2 lbs. thin-sliced chicken breast halves (cut in half) or chicken tenders

Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Pulse almonds in a food processor until finely ground into an almond meal.

Mix the almond meal together with garlic, paprika, dried mustard, oregano, thyme, salt and pepper.

Dredge each piece of chicken in egg and coat with almond spice mixture.

Place pieces on lightly greased cookie sheet.



PROVIDED PHOTO

NUTS: Nuts like almonds contain heart-healthy unsaturated fats, fiber and vitamin E, and are known for their antioxidant properties.

Bake for 20-25 minutes, until golden.

Makes 8 servings (about 2-3 tenders per serving).

Per Serving: 220 calories, 10 g total fat (1.5 g saturated fat), 4 g carbohydrate, 2 g dietary fiber, 28 g protein, 430 mg sodium.

Greek Yogurt Ranch Dip

Ingredients:
1 cup nonfat Greek yogurt
1/3 cup buttermilk
1 Tbsp. dried parsley
2 tsp. garlic powder
2 tsp. onion powder
1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper
1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
1/2 tsp. salt
2 eggs, beaten
1 tsp. Dijon mustard

1 tsp. lemon juice
1 Tbsp. fresh chives, finely chopped
Fresh chives for garnish

Directions

In a medium bowl, stir together all ingredients, except for garnish.

Garnish with fresh chives and serve chilled.

Makes 8 (2 Tbsp.) servings.

Per Serving: 25 calories, 0 g total fat (0 g saturated fat), 3 g carbohydrate, 0 g dietary fiber, 3 g protein, 180 mg sodium.

Greek Yogurt Honey Mustard

Ingredients:
1/2; cup nonfat Greek yogurt

1 Tbsp. honey
1 Tbsp. yellow mustard
2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
1/8 tsp. salt

Directions

Mix all ingredients together and serve chilled.

Makes 8 (1 Tbsp.) servings.

Per Serving: 20 calories, 0 g total fat (0 g saturated fat), 3 g carbohydrate, 0 g dietary fiber, 1 g protein, 150 mg sodium.

Sonja Goedkoop, MSPH, RD, is the Manager of Nutrition and Wellness at Zesty, Inc. She is passionate about helping others improve their health through diet and physical activity and believes eating nutritious food should be easy and taste great. You can follow her on Twitter @SonjaGoedkoopRD.

White House proposes guidelines for regulating the use of AI

BY MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

The Trump administration is proposing new rules to guide future federal regulation of artificial intelligence used in medicine, transportation and other industries.

But the vagueness of the principles announced by the White House is unlikely to satisfy AI watchdogs who have warned of a lack of accountability as computer systems are deployed to take on human roles in high-risk social settings, such as mortgage lending or job recruitment.

The White House said that in deciding regulatory action, U.S. agencies "must consider fairness, non-discrimination, openness,

transparency, safety, and security." But federal agencies must also avoid setting up restrictions that "needlessly hamper AI innovation and growth," reads a memo being sent to U.S. agency chiefs from Russell Vought, acting director of the Office of Management and Budget. "Agencies must avoid a precautionary approach that holds AI systems to such an impossibly high standard that society cannot enjoy their benefits," the memo says.

The rules won't affect how federal agencies such as law enforcement use facial recognition and other forms of AI. They are specifically limited to how federal agencies devise new AI regula-

tions for the private sector. There's a 60-day public comment period before the rules take effect.

"These principles are intentionally high-level," said Lynne Parker, U.S. deputy chief technology officer at the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy. "We purposely wanted to avoid top-down, one-size-fits-all, blanket regulations."

The White House said the proposals unveiled Tuesday are meant to promote private sector applications of AI that are safe and fair, while also pushing back against stricter regulations favored by some lawmakers and activists.

Federal agencies such as the Food and Drug Adminis-

tration and the Federal Aviation Administration will be bound to follow the new AI principles. That makes the rules "the first of their kind from any government," Michael Kratsios, the U.S. chief technology officer, said in a call with reporters Monday.

Rapid advancements in AI technology have raised fresh concern as computers increasingly take on jobs such as diagnosing medical conditions, driving cars, recommending stock investments, judging credit risk and recognizing individual faces in video footage. It's often not clear how AI systems make their decisions, leading to questions of how far to trust them and when to keep humans in the loop.

Boeing now saying pilots need simulator training for 737 Max

BY DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

Boeing said Tuesday it is recommending that pilots receive training in a flight simulator before the grounded 737 Max returns to flying, a reversal of the company's long-held position that computer-based training alone was adequate.

The recommendation is based on changes to the plane, results from tests involving a small number of pilots, and a commitment to the safe return of the Max, Boeing said.

The final decision on the nature of training will be up to the Federal Aviation Administration and regulators in other countries. The FAA said it will consider Boeing's recommendation but also rely on upcoming further tests using pilots from U.S. and foreign airlines.

Those tests are designed to help regulators determine flight training and emergency procedures, said FAA spokesman Lynn Lunsford.

"The FAA is following a thorough process, not a set timeline, to ensure that any design modifications to the 737 Max are integrated with appropriate training and procedures," Lunsford said.

The 737 Max has been grounded worldwide since last March after two crashes killed 346 people. Boeing is making changes to flight-control software and other systems in a bid to get the plane back in the air.

Boeing long held that pilots who can fly older 737s only needed a computer course – roughly an hour-long course on a tablet – to fly the Max. That helped airlines avoid timely and costly training in simulators.

Boeing even offered to pay Southwest Airlines a rebate of \$1 million per plane if pilots needed simulator training before flying the Max.

Last year, an FAA technical advisory board sided with Boeing and recommended that only computer-based training was needed. However, families of victims of the two crashes lobbied for simulator training, arguing that pilots need to experience how the Max differs from previous versions of the 737.

"Of course this should be required," Nadia Milleron,

a Massachusetts woman whose daughter, Samya Stumo, died in the March 2019 Max crash in Ethiopia, said after Boeing's announcement. "Passengers should not have to push for basic safety standards."

Similarly, the chairman of a congressional panel investigating Boeing said the company's endorsement of simulator training was welcome but overdue.

"It's remarkable that it took two deadly crashes, numerous investigations and untold public pressure before Boeing arrived at this decision," said Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., chairman of the House Transportation Committee. He said Boeing "put production and profits ahead of the public's safety" by assuring airlines that its 737 pilots could fly the Max without going through simulator training.

Boeing's interim CEO, Greg Smith, said in a statement that Boeing decided to recommend simulator training because of the importance to Boeing of gaining public and airline confidence in the Max.

U.S. pilot unions stood by Boeing and vouched for the Max's safety after the first crash, in Indonesia in October 2018. The American Airlines union said last April that pilots should practice certain emergencies in a simulator – but only as part of regular training and not necessarily before the Max returned.

Dennis Tajer, a 737 pilot and spokesman for the union, said Tuesday that as more revelations emerged about the design of key systems, the union grew skeptical. He said Boeing's endorsement of simulator training now "sounds like a step in the positive direction."

The U.S. airlines that own Max jets – Southwest, American and United – issued muted statements, saying they would wait for a final decision by FAA.

It is not clear whether a requirement for simulator training would further delay the return of the Max, which is costing Boeing billions and forcing airlines to cancel thousands of flights. About 800 Max jets have been built, and they were expected to become a bigger part of the fleets at many airlines.



Eagles fall to New Heights

In the first game of the new year, the Emmanuel Christian basketball team fell to New Heights of Fort Wayne, 67-56. Preston Ritzema had 16 points while Riley Miller added 16 points and nine rebounds. Brogan Templin chipped in 10 points.

West Virginia's Huggins fined for referring to refs as '3 blind mice'

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — The Big 12 Conference has fined West Virginia coach Bob Huggins \$10,000 for referring to an officiating crew as “three blind mice” after a recent loss at No. 3 Kansas.

The league announced the fine in a statement that also issued a public reprimand. “Coach Huggins’ comments following the West Virginia vs. Kansas basketball game violate the Big 12 Conference’s sportsmanship policy,” Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said in the statement Tuesday. “Because this is Coach Huggins’ third such incident, a public reprimand and a fine of \$10,000 is appropriate.”

Huggins made the comments in a post-game radio interview Saturday after the 60-53 loss in Lawrence, Kansas.

“I can’t control what those three blind mice running around out there do,” Huggins said.

Brewers' Counsell gets 3-year contract extension through 2023

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Milwaukee general manager David Stearns didn’t have to do much thinking when it came to a new long-term deal for Brewers manager Craig Counsell.

“Both Craig and I thought this was probably an inevitability at some point,” Stearns said Wednesday after announcing a three-year extension for Counsell through the 2023 season. “It was just a matter of finding a time to work through the details.”

Hired to replace Ron Roenicke a month into the 2015 season, Counsell led the Brewers to consecutive postseason appearances for the first time in team history.

Submit your news

The Plain Dealer is accepting all news. Reports must be received by 3:00 p.m. to make it in the following day’s edition. Items may be:

E-mailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail.

Mailed into Plain Dealer, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



JACOB RUDE/Plain Dealer

DRIVE: Northfield’s Emma Hoover drives past her opponent into the lane during Tuesday’s game against Bluffton.

Second-half surge sends Norse past Tigers

BY JACOB RUDE sports@wabashplaindealer.com

In its return to the home court for the first time since winning the Wabash County Tournament on Monday, the Northfield girls’ basketball team flexed its muscle across the final three quarters to earn a comfortable 58-35.

In a game that was tight into the second quarter, the Norse started a run that saw them score 24 of the next 28 points over the final period of the first half and both quarters of the second half. Leading 28-17, Northfield

scored the final five points of the second quarter on a basket from Emma Hoover and a three-pointer from Fayth Leming to head into the locker room up 16 points.

The hosts then opened the second half in a flurry as baskets from Hoover, Kenzie Baer and Kearston Stout to open the period extended the lead to 43-17. Bluffton’s first basket wouldn’t come until the 2:43 mark but Northfield still carried a 24-point lead into the fourth quarter.

Addi Baker opened the fourth with a layup before

a three-point play from Hoover and a layup from Leming capped off what was a 24-4 run spanning the end of the second period to the start of the fourth.

While the latter stages of the contest were comfortable for the Norse, the opening stages were not. Bluffton took an early lead on baskets from Emme Boots and Zoe Barger. The Tigers led for almost the entire second half before Northfield closed the period with the final six points from Stout, Emily Penning-

ton and Ainsley Dale to lead 14-9 after one.

The lead continued to grow in the second period despite multiple timeouts from Bluffton in unsuccessful attempts to stem the tide.

Hoover led the Norse with 16 points and five assists. Stout had 15 points and six rebounds, Baker had 10 points and seven rebounds and Leming had nine points. Northfield will travel to Tippecanoe Valley on Thursday to take on the current leaders of the conference.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Indianapolis ramping up prep work for 2022 championship game

BY MICHAEL MAROT AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Susan Baughman will spend this weekend getting learning the nuances of putting on a national championship game.

Then the Indianapolis College Football Playoff host committee president will spend the next two years using those lessons to come up with a game plan.

On Wednesday, Baughman announced the rest of her team then took a few moments to contemplate the four-day event Indy be host-

ing in 2022.

“We’re going to overprepare, we’re going to plan for everything,” Baughman said. “We’re going to take a look (in New Orleans) at how we can develop our plan here.”

Indianapolis has plenty of experience hosting major events, including seven Final Fours, the 2000 NBA Finals, multiple Olympics trials, the 2002 basketball world championships, the 2012 Super Bowl and races including the annual Indianapolis 500 each May.

But Indy will be the first cold-weather city to host

college football’s marquee game.

Monday night’s game will be played in New Orleans, joining a growing list of metro areas that have held the game — Dallas, Phoenix, Tampa, Florida, Atlanta and Santa Clara, California. Next year’s game will be played in Miami and then the game goes to metro Los Angeles and Houston in 2023 and 2024.

If Baughman pulls off a successful event in January 2022, she knows it could keep Indy in the mix.

“Indiana Sports Corp. will

look at this event and others for the future calendar,” she said. “I think we’re going to do a great job with it and we want them to come back here. We want to make it so easy for them to come back here.”

But Baughman, the 14-member executive committee and 23-member board of directors also will be working around a busy schedule.

Indianapolis already is slated to host the NBA All-Star Game, the men’s basketball Final Four and the Big Ten football championship in

See PREP / Page B2

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

LSU’s Joe Burrow, Justin Jefferson lead AP all-bowl team

BY STEVE MEGARGEE AP Sports Writer

Joe Burrow and Justin Jefferson were easy selections for The Associated Press All-Bowl Team after they connected for four first-half touchdowns in LSU’s College Football Playoff semifinal blowout of Oklahoma.

Selecting the rest of the team wasn’t nearly as simple.

Although the season won’t end until LSU faces Clemson in the championship game Monday night in New Orleans, all the postseason games with “bowl” in the title have been played. So why wait?

Because some defenses run

a 4-3 scheme, some run a 3-4 and others use the nickel as their base defense, AP included four linemen, four linebackers and five defensive backs in picking the honorees. There are also 13 players on offense, since we include an all-purpose player and a third running back.

There were far more receivers than tight ends worthy of consideration, so we left out the tight end position and went with three receivers instead. Maybe next year.

OFFENSE
Quarterback

Joe Burrow, LSU (Peach):

The Heisman Trophy winner tied a bowl record by throwing seven touchdown passes in the top-ranked Tigers’ 63-28 victory over No. 4 Oklahoma — all in the first half Burrow went 29 of 39 for 394 yards passing. He also had a touchdown run.

Running back

Journey Brown, Penn State (Cotton): Brown rushed for 202 yards and two touchdowns on just 16 carries in the 13th-ranked Nittany Lions’ 53-39 triumph over No. 15 Memphis. He scored from 32 and 56 yards away.

Lamical Perine, Florida (Orange): Perine ran for 138

yards and caught five passes for 43 yards in the ninth-ranked Gators’ 36-28 victory over No. 24 Virginia. Perine had two touchdown runs and one touchdown catch.

Xazavian Valladay, Wyoming (Arizona): Valladay rushed for 204 yards and one touchdown on 26 carries as Wyoming beat Georgia State 38-17. He also caught three passes for 91 yards, including a 63-yard score.

Wide receiver

Justin Jefferson, LSU (Peach): Jefferson caught four of Burrow’s seven touchdown passes. Jefferson ended up with 14 receptions for 227

yards.

Jerry Jeudy, Alabama (Citrus): Jeudy caught an 85-yard touchdown pass on No. 9 Alabama’s first play from scrimmage and finished with six receptions for 204 yards in a 35-16 victory over No. 17 Michigan.

Tyler Johnson, Minnesota (Outback): Johnson had 12 receptions for 202 yards and two touchdowns as No. 16 Minnesota defeated No. 9 Auburn 31-24.

Line

Tremayne Anchrum and Jackson Carman, Clemson

See TEAM / Page B2

MLB

Nats-Mets, Tigers-Indians start earliest opening day

NEW YORK (AP) — The World Series champion Washington Nationals will be at the New York Mets, and Detroit will play at Cleveland on March 26 in the first two games of Major League Baseball’s earliest opening day other than international games.

Washington’s game is part of a nationally televised tripleheader on ESPN and will be followed by San Francisco at the Los Angeles Dodgers at 4:10 p.m. EDT and the Los Angeles Angels at AL champion Houston at 7:10 p.m.

Other AL opening-day games (all times EDT) are: Kansas City at the Chicago White Sox (2:10 p.m.), New York Yankees at Baltimore (3:05 p.m.), Boston at Toronto (3:37 p.m.), Minnesota at Oakland (4:07 p.m.) and Texas at Seattle (4:10 p.m.).

NL openers include the Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee (2:10 p.m.), St. Louis at Cincinnati (4:10 p.m.), Philadelphia at Miami (4:10 p.m.), Colorado at San Diego (4:10 p.m.) and Atlanta at Arizona (10:10 p.m.). The one interleague matchup has Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay (4:10 p.m.).

All 30 teams could play on opening day for the first time since 1968. A full slate was scheduled in 2018 but two games were postponed because of bad weather. The 2020 regular season is to end Sept. 27, putting the World Series on track for Oct. 20-28.

Globe Life Field, the new home of the Texas Rangers, opens March 31 with a game against the Angels at 4:05 p.m. This is the first new ballpark since the Atlanta Braves’ SunTrust Park opened in 2017. Globe Life will be the seventh big league stadium with a retractable roof after those in Toronto, Phoenix, Seattle, Houston, Milwaukee and Miami. Tampa Bay has a fixed roof.

The Angels host the Dodgers on July 10-11 heading into the All-Star Game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles on July 14 — giving both teams a rare Sunday off on July 12.

San Diego plays Arizona in a two-game series on April 18-19 in the first regular-season games in Mexico City, and Miami hosts the Mets in a three-game series at San Juan, Puerto Rico, from April 28-30. The Cubs and Cardinals will play two games in London , on June 13 at 1:10 p.m. and the following day at a time to be determined.

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tuesday's men's scores				
EAST				
Boston College 60, Virginia 53				
Brown 79, Johnson & Wales (RI) 53				
Cornell 100, SUNY-Purchase 68				
Houston 78, Temple 74				
Maryland 67, Ohio St. 55				
Quinnipiac 80, Rider 61				
Rutgers 72, Penn St. 61				
Virginia Tech 67, Syracuse 63				
SOUTH				
East Carolina 62, South Florida 59				
Florida 81, South Carolina 68				
Kentucky 78, Georgia 69				
Louisville 74, Miami 58				
MIDWEST				
Akron 84, W. Michigan 69				
Ball St. 88, Buffalo 68				
Bowling Green 78, Miami (Ohio) 76				
Cent. Michigan 68, N. Illinois 67				
Drake 65, Loyola of Chicago 62				
Kent St. 84, Toledo 77				
Missouri St. 67, Illinois St. 63				
N. Iowa 68, Indiana St. 60				
Nebraska 76, Iowa 70				
Ohio 74, E. Michigan 68				
Providence 81, Marquette 80				
S. Illinois 63, Valparaiso 50				
TCU 59, Kansas St. 57				
Tennessee 69, Missouri 59				
Villanova 64, Creighton 59				
SOUTHWEST				
Baylor 57, Texas Tech 52				
Texas A&M 57, Mississippi 47				

BIG TEN CONFERENCE					
Conference		All Games			
W	L	Pct	W	L	
Michigan St.	4	1	1,000	12	3
Maryland	3	1	750	13	2
Rutgers	2	1	750	12	3
Wisconsin	2	1	667	9	5
Penn St.	2	2	500	12	3
Illinois	2	2	500	10	5
Purdue	2	2	500	9	6
Minnesota	2	2	500	8	6
Nebraska	2	2	500	7	8
Indiana	1	2	333	11	3
Michigan	1	2	333	10	4
Ohio St.	1	3	250	11	4
Iowa	1	3	250	10	5
Northwestern	0	3	000	5	8
Tuesday's Games					
Maryland 67, Ohio St. 55					
Rutgers 72, Penn St. 61					
Nebraska 76, Iowa 70					
Wednesday's Games					
Northwestern at Indiana					
Illinois at Wisconsin					
Today's Games					
Purdue at Michigan, 7 p.m.					
Minnesota at Michigan St., 9 p.m.					
Friday's Game					
Maryland at Iowa, 7 p.m.					

NFL

Divisional Playoffs	
Saturday, Jan. 11	
Minnesota at San Francisco, 4:35 p.m. (NBC)	
Tennessee at Baltimore, 8:15 p.m. (CBS)	
Sunday, Jan. 12	
Houston at Kansas City, 3:05 p.m. (CBS)	
Seattle at Green Bay, 6:40 p.m. (FOX)	
Conference Championships	
Sunday, Jan. 19	
AFC, 3:05 p.m. (CBS)	
NFC, 6:40 p.m. (FOX)	
Pro Bowl	
Sunday, Jan. 26	
AFC vs. NFC, 3 p.m. (ESPN)	
Super Bowl	
Sunday, Feb. 2	
NFC champion vs. AFC champion, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)	

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	44	25	8	11	61	146	113
Tampa Bay	42	25	13	4	54	156	127
Toronto	44	24	15	5	53	159	141
Florida	43	22	16	5	49	153	146
Buffalo	43	19	17	7	45	127	135
Montreal	44	18	19	7	43	139	143
Ottawa	43	16	22	5	37	118	149
Detroit	44	11	30	3	25	96	168
Metropolitan Division							
Washington	44	30	9	5	65	161	130
N.Y. Islanders	42	27	12	3	57	120	108
Pittsburgh	43	26	12	5	57	146	116
Carolina	43	25	16	2	52	145	123
Philadelphia	43	22	15	6	50	137	134
Columbus	44	21	15	8	50	117	121
N.Y. Rangers	42	20	18	4	44	138	141
New Jersey	42	15	20	7	37	109	148
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division							
St. Louis	44	27	10	7	61	138	121
Colorado	44	25	15	4	54	159	130
Dallas	42	24	14	4	52	115	104
Winnipeg	43	23	16	4	50	133	131
Minnesota	43	20	17	6	46	133	144
Nashville	42	19	16	7	45	144	143
Chicago	44	19	19	6	44	128	143
Pacific Division							
Arizona	45	25	16	4	54	133	114
Vegas	46	24	16	6	54	147	137
Edmonton	45	23	17	5	51	137	142
Calgary	45	23	17	5	51	125	135
Vancouver	43	23	16	4	50	143	134
San Jose	45	19	22	4	42	121	151
Anaheim	43	17	21	5	39	113	136
Los Angeles	44	17	23	4	38	112	140
NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.							
Tuesday's Games							
Carolina 5, Philadelphia 4, OT							
Arizona 5, Florida 2							
N.Y. Islanders 4, New Jersey 3, OT							
Tampa Bay 9, Vancouver 2							
Washington 6, Ottawa 1							
Detroit 4, Montreal 3							
N.Y. Rangers 5, Colorado 3							
Boston 6, Nashville 2							
St. Louis 3, San Jose 2							
Calgary 2, Chicago 1							
Columbus 4, Anaheim 3							
Pittsburgh 4, Vegas 3							
Wednesday's Games							
Washington at Philadelphia							
Winnipeg at Toronto							
Dallas at Los Angeles							
Today's Games							
Winnipeg at Boston, 7 p.m.							
Vancouver at Florida, 7 p.m.							
Edmonton at Montreal, 7 p.m.							
New Jersey at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.							
Arizona at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.							
Buffalo at St. Louis, 8 p.m.							
Nashville at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.							
Minnesota at Calgary, 9 p.m.							
Dallas at Anaheim, 10 p.m.							
Los Angeles at Vegas, 10 p.m.							
Columbus at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.							
Friday's Games							
Arizona at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.							
Ottawa at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.							
Pittsburgh at Colorado, 9 p.m.							

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	25	9	735	
Toronto	24	13	639	2½
Philadelphia	24	14	632	3
Brooklyn	16	20	444	10
New York	10	27	270	16½
Southeast Division				
Miami	26	10	722	—
Orlando	17	20	459	9½
Charlotte	15	24	385	12½
Washington	12	24	333	14
Atlanta	8	29	216	18½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	32	6	842	—
Indiana	23	14	622	8½
Detroit	14	24	368	18
Chicago	13	24	351	18½
Cleveland	10	27	270	21½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Houston	24	11	686	—
Dallas	23	13	639	1½
San Antonio	15	20	429	9
Memphis	16	22	421	9½
New Orleans	12	25	324	13
Northwest Division				

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

QB Jake Fromm leaving Georgia to enter NFL draft

BY PAUL NEWBERRY

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA — Georgia quarterback Jake Fromm is heading to the NFL, despite some struggles during a junior season that led to speculation he might return for one more year with the Bulldogs.

Fromm announced his decision Wednesday in a statement on his Twitter page, one week after leading the Bulldogs to a 26-14 victory over Baylor in the Sugar Bowl.

“This decision and process has been unbelievably difficult,” he wrote. “But through much prayer and counsel, I have decided that it is time for me to take on the next challenge in my life and

pursue my lifelong dream of playing in the NFL.”

Fromm threw for a career-high 2,860 yards this season, with 24 touchdowns and just five interceptions. But he posted the lowest completion percentage (60.8) and quarterback rating (141.2) of his college career, leading to him dropping in many NFL draft projections.

Late in the season, he had a stretch of five straight games where he failed to complete 50% of his passes. Once viewed as a potential top 10 pick, some analysts are now predicting that Fromm will fall into the second round.

Still, Fromm will be remembered as one of the best quarterbacks in Georgia history. He was 35-7 record as

the Bulldogs’ starter, including three straight appearances in the Southeastern Conference championship game.

As a freshman in 2017, he took over in the season opener after Jacob Eason was injured, made his first college start at Notre Dame the following week and held the job for the rest of his career.

Fromm sparked Georgia to its first SEC title since 2005, a memorable Rose Bowl victory over Oklahoma in the playoff semifinals, and a trip to the national championship game, where the Bulldogs lost to Alabama in overtime.

The past two seasons, Georgia settled for Sugar Bowl bids after losing to Alabama and LSU in the SEC championship game.

Fromm thanked his teammates and coaches, singling out head coach Kirby Smart.

“Thank you to Coach Smart who always believed in me and who over the last three years has helped grow that wide eyed, scared, 18 year old kid who got handed the ball in South Bend, into a better man, and secondly a better football player,” Fromm said.

The departing quarterback also praised Georgia’s fans.

“Through the good times and the bad, I always felt your love and support,” he wrote. “I hope I mean as much to you as you do to me.”

The loss of Fromm leaves Georgia with a big hole to fill at quarterback. Former

walk-on Stetson Bennett is the only other signal-caller with significant college experience, playing four games in a mop-up role this season.

Of note, the Bulldogs also have a pair of top prospects from their last two signing classes.

D’wan Mathis enrolled at Georgia a year ago but suffered a major setback when severe headaches and sinus pressure led to him undergoing surgery in May to remove a cyst from his brain. He recovered from the operation and was able to work on the scout team late in the season.

Last month, the Bulldogs signed Carson Beck, a 6-foot-4, 226-pound quarterback from Jacksonville, Fla.,

whose skills have been compared to Fromm’s.

Justin Fields was once Fromm’s heir apparent, signing with Georgia ahead of the 2018 season.

But Fields played sparingly as a freshman and wound up transferring to Ohio State, where he finished third in the Heisman Trophy balloting while leading the Buckeyes to a Big Ten championship and berth in the College Football Playoff.

Fields put up numbers that dwarfed Fromm’s, throwing for 3,273 yards and 41 touchdowns, with three picks. He also rushed for rushed for 484 yards and 10 TDs, leading many to question Smart’s decision to stick with Fromm as the starter.

NFL

Black coaching hires still at dismal level in the NFL

BY TIM DAHLBERG

AP Sports Columnist

A year ago, Richard Lapchick was at least willing to consider it might be cyclical. Not any longer.

Not after all but one of the coaching vacancies in the NFL have been filled. Not after — in a league where 70% of players are minorities — blacks have been hired for only two of the 19 open head coaching spots over the last three years.

“It’s very discouraging that this continues to happen,” said Lapchick, the director of The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at Central Florida. “It’s not like there are no qualified candidates. These people are out there and ready.”

They may be ready, but NFL owners apparently aren’t. Despite the adoption of the Rooney Rule in 2003 to increase the number of black head coaches, there are only three among the four minority head coaches (Washington’s Ron Rivera is Hispanic) currently employed in the league.

And, with only the Cleveland Browns still looking, that number won’t be changing much — if at all.

“There’s not much to be optimistic about from this year’s results for sure,” said Lapchick, who annually gives sports leagues grades on their efforts to diversify. “This is a serious cause for concern that we’ve now gone three years with the lowest numbers we’ve had in a long time.”

Just why those numbers are so low is open to debate, especially since the NFL has made efforts over the past two decades to promote minority hires. The Rooney Rule not only man-

dated that teams interview coaches of color for coaching vacancies but was later updated so that the general manager job was included.

And before last season, the rule was toughened so that teams couldn’t skirt the requirements with sham interviews.

Still, the number of black head coaches stands at just three, down from a peak of eight. The situation in the GM’s office is even more bleak, with just one black general manager.

Not exactly the type of progress envisioned when former Steelers owner Dan Rooney spearheaded the minority hiring rule nearly 20 years ago. The numbers are so bad on the GM side that Lapchick gave the league an F grade in that category for racial and gender hiring practices as part of an overall B grade.

“It’s a serious problem,” Lapchick said. “It’s fair to say nobody is feeling pressured to diversify, especially at the club level.”

If it’s a problem, it’s one that doesn’t get a lot of attention outside of the annual head coach hiring season. That might be, Lapchick said, because players themselves have been relatively silent on the subject even while speaking out on social issues outside the league.

It’s also true that as recently as the 2018 season there were eight black head coaches before five of them got fired.

NFL defenders point to that stat and argue that the latest hirings are indeed cyclical and the low current number of minority coaches is an aberration. NFL owners are so desperate to win,

they say, that they would hire their worst enemy if they thought he had the best chance of getting them to a Super Bowl.

But while the Rooney Rule requires interviews, it doesn’t require hirings. It also doesn’t cover the offensive and defensive coordinator positions that have traditionally been stepping stones to the head coaching job and, on the offensive side at least, have traditionally been white.

And, like it or not, the NFL remains a closed society where the good ol’ boy network remains powerful.

It’s still somewhat startling that the league didn’t hire its first black head coach of the modern era until 1989, when Al Davis named Art Shell in Oakland. It took 13 more years before Ozzie Newsome became the first black general manager in Baltimore.

Not a great history to defend, and the lack of minority head coaches is just as indefensible.

Indeed, the NFL deserves low grades for its hiring practice both on the sidelines and in the executive offices. The league is failing the very players who make billionaire owners even richer, and at some point the players are going to decide they want to have a say about it.

There’s no debate that coaching is a brutal business no matter what color your skin is. Coaches are hired to be fired, and all but the most successful eventually lose their jobs for not winning enough.

What isn’t debated is this: There’s plenty of good black coaches out there. And they deserve a chance to succeed.

NBA

Thunder to debut new uniforms honoring 1995 bombing victims

BY JENNI CARLSON

The Oklahoman

OKLAHOMA CITY — Ryan Whicher is ecstatic the Thunder-Rockets game will be nationally televised Thursday night.

It’s not because he lives in Maryland and none of Oklahoma City’s other games this season have been broadcast beyond the local telecasts. It’s not even because Russell Westbrook will make his return to OKC.

Whicher is pumped because millions of people will get to see the Thunder’s uniforms.

On Thursday, OKC will debut its new “City” uniforms, designed to pay homage to those affected by the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. A striking combination of charcoal and bronze, numerous details will be familiar to Oklahomans. The Survivor Tree on the waistbands. The Gates of Time on the side panels.

But for people outside of the state, the symbolism may be foreign.

And for some, the bombing itself may be unknown.

That’s why Whicher is so grateful the Thunder and the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum collaborated on these uniforms, why he is so glad viewers across the country and even around the world will have a chance to see them. They will help keep alive the memory of what happened.

“Tragedies like this, I always worry that everyone else is going to forget about it and the victims will kind of be on their own at some point,” Whicher said. “That’s a fear in the back of everyone’s head, I’m sure.”

“And this is absolute 100% proof that’s not the case.”

Those killed, those injured and those affected haven’t been forgotten.

That includes Ryan Whicher’s dad.

Alan Whicher became the assistant special agent in charge of the U.S. Secret Service field office in Oklahoma City back in August 1994. He decided to take the desk position after serving on President Bill Clinton’s security detail, moving to Oklahoma from Washington, D.C., hoping for a slower, simpler life.

Whicher didn’t want to miss any more birthdays or holidays with his family. He wanted to spend more time with his wife, Pam, and children Meredith, Melinda and Ryan.

No one welcomed that more than Ryan, who was in middle school at the time.

“He was like the Terminator in real life,” Ryan said. “He was this massive figure who was a law enforcement guy. To me, he was just this awesome human.”

Alan Whicher was in his new office on the ninth floor

of the Murrah Building when that truck bomb exploded.

Two days later came the official notification of his death.

Ryan was only 12, but he had grown accustomed to his dad traveling for work. All of his dad’s years in the Secret Service meant when the president or vice president went somewhere, Alan Whicher went, too.

“It just felt like he was on a long trip,” Ryan said of those days after the bombing, “and we were just waiting for him to get home.”

But when Ryan saw adults in tears, including men who were big and strong and brave like his dad, Ryan started to understand the gravity of the situation. His dad wasn’t on a long trip. He wouldn’t be coming home.

Whicher’s mom moved the family back to the Washington, D.C., area soon after the bombing.

Ryan, along with his wife and two children, still live in Maryland.

Because the entire Whicher family has lived outside Oklahoma much of the past 25 years, they aren’t constantly exposed to reminders about the bombing. There are no field trips to the museum. No weekend strolls around the memorial. No special visits to the field of chairs.

Ryan Whicher doesn’t need those cues.

“It’s been almost 25 years, and not a day goes by where I don’t reflect on it in some way, shape or form,” he said.

But he knows most people living outside Oklahoma aren’t as aware of what happened that April day — or how so many responded in the wake of the tragedy.

There was care and love, support and hope.

“The actual act itself?” Ryan Whicher said. “That’s pain. You can go find a million things daily that will give you that pain.

He believes the Thunder’s uniforms will help spread that message.

“Think of some kid in France watching the basketball game,” Ryan Whicher said. “He probably doesn’t know this story. Maybe he does, but now he definitely will.”

Those are the kinds of people Kari Watkins was hoping to reach when the Thunder first approached the memorial about a special-edition uniform. As the executive director of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, she embraced the idea of not only honoring those killed, injured and changed by the bombing but also spreading the “Oklahoma Standard” of service, honor and kindness to a new audience.

“We have our work cut out for us as far as really needing to make sure this story is told,” Watkins said.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

George Perles, longtime Michigan State football coach, dies at 85

BY LARRY LAGE

AP Sports Writer

George Perles, who coached Michigan State to a Rose Bowl victory in 1988 and was a key defensive assistant for the dominant Pittsburgh Steelers teams of the 1970s, died Tuesday. He was 85.

Perles played football at Michigan State and later was an assistant coach, head coach, athletic director and member of the school’s governing body. Michigan State announced Perles’ death Wednesday.

“George touched so many lives. He helped so many people. He was fiercely loyal and never forgot where he came from,” said Brian Mosalam, a former Michigan State football player now on the Board of Trustees. “We lost a giant.”

Michigan State hired Perles in 1983 to revive its beleaguered football program. He did just that, winning Big Ten titles in 1987 and 1990 and coaching the school in seven bowl games. He helped the Spartans beat Southern California, 20-17, on Jan. 1, 1988, for their first Rose Bowl win in three-plus decades.

Perles was an assistant coach for the Spartans before he was hired away in 1972 to coach the Steelers’ defensive line. He later was defensive coordinator and assistant head coach for a team that won four NFL championships in six years. The Philadelphia Stars of the U.S. Football League signed him in 1982, but he got out of his contract to return to the campus in East Lansing, Mich.

The Green Bay Packers tried to lure Perles to the NFL shortly after his Rose Bowl victory and the New York Jets tried two years later. Both times Perles leveraged the opportunities to get what he wanted at Michigan State.

He signed a 10-year contract after passing on the chance to lead the Packers. Just before he was going to be introduced as the Jets’ coach in 1990, he was given the title of athletic director despite objections from John DiBiaggio, the university president.

Perles was forced to give up his job as athletic director in 1992. He was fired as coach late in the 1994 season and the team finished 5-6 that year. After an outside investigation, Peter McPherson, then the school president, said the Spartans would forfeit their games because of an academic scandal. The NCAA cleared Perles.

“I would never have stayed at Michigan State if I knew there could be so much conflict about it, or that my staying could somehow hurt the school,” he said in his book, “George Perles: The Ride of a Lifetime,” published in 1995. “I would have taken the job with Green Bay (in 1988) or with the Jets (in 1990) if I had known what was coming.”

He stayed in Michigan for the rest of his life and helped create the Motor City Bowl, using his charm to get the three major automakers to team up to sponsor the postseason college football game for his native Detroit.

“In addition to being a great Spartan, he was a problem solver,” said Ken Hoffman, who was a sports in-

formation director at Michigan State and also became executive director of the bowl game. “Whenever there was an issue, he found a way.”

Perles was elected to the Michigan State Board of Trustees in 2006 and was re-elected eight years later but wasn’t able to finish his second term. Perles resigned as a member of the governing board in November 2018. He stepped down, citing his age of 84 at the time and his struggles with Parkinson’s disease.

Perles was born and raised in Detroit, where he lived in a one-bedroom apartment with his parents. He attended Western High School and starred on the baseball and football teams. He went to the University of Tennessee to play football but lasted only a semester.

He transferred to Florida State, where he was on campus briefly during preseason practices before moving back to the Motor City. With 14 friends wanting to go through basic training together, Perles joined the Army in 1954 and he enlisted for two years before heading to Michigan State.

Shortly after he was eligible to play in 1958 for coach Duffy Daugherty, Perles — a lineman — had a career-ending knee injury. He accepted Daugherty’s offer to be a student assistant.

Perles earned his first chance to be a head coach in 1961, at the high school level at St. Rita’s in Chicago. He later led St. Ambrose in Grosse Pointe Park, Mich.

Couple is target of ridicule for their healthy lifestyle

DEAR ABBY: We need advice about how to respond to friends and family who poke fun or show disdain because of our healthy lifestyle. We are in our 60s. We rarely eat out, and when we do, we avoid fast food. We cook most of our meals with an emphasis on vegetables, fruits, fish and chicken. We exercise regularly and have occasional treats. We have no chronic illnesses and aren't on any medications.

Dear Abby



For some reason, our food choices rub people the wrong way. If we are asked why we are in good health, we answer, "Over the years, we've learned not to consume foods or beverages that make us feel bad." If we're invited out to eat and order the baked salmon with broccoli instead of the burger and fries, we hear, "Your diet is so BORING." We usually laugh and shrug it off, but we don't think our diet is boring. We simply enjoy being healthy and know that food is "medicine." Should we continue to keep our mouths shut? – Healthy Living

DEAR HEALTHY: YEP! Your friends and family react the way they do because seeing you eat the way you do makes them feel self-conscious about their own food choices. Continue laughing and shrugging to age 100. The others may not be as fortunate as you.

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend recently discovered that I am still talking to another girl I used to date. I'll call her Kyra.

Kyra and I had agreed we would remain strictly friends, and the breakup was before I started dating my current girlfriend, "Jan." Jan is devastated by this, and I can somewhat understand why. She got cheated on multiple times in her last relationship.

Do you think I was crossing a boundary by wanting to maintain the friendship with Kyra? Or should I have dropped it when I started dating Jan? I'm asking you because everyone I talk to agrees with me, and everyone Jan talks to agrees with her. I assume it's because people agree with whoever is telling the story. You are unbiased, and your opinion would be greatly appreciated. – Doing The Right Thing In Utah

DEAR DOING: There's nothing wrong with remaining friends after a breakup. Jan is insecure because her last boyfriend cheated on her, and who can blame her? However, that is her problem, and you shouldn't make it yours. Your mistake was not telling Jan when you first started dating that you are still in touch with Kyra – and that she's a platonic friend, nothing more. Jan does not have the right to control your friendships, and you shouldn't let it happen.

DEAR ABBY: How do you cut off a person who talks constantly without a break? By the time there's a lull in her speech, I have forgotten what I wanted to add to the conversation. – Word In Edgewise In Pennsylvania

DEAR WORD: I have encountered compulsive talkers like her. They are exhausting. Remember, she has to breathe SOMETIME. The minute she starts to inhale, start talkin'!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Relieved sound
- 5 Tinned meat
- 9 Let's see ...
- 12 Ms. Falco
- 13 Non-soap opera
- 14 Yale athlete
- 15 Relax
- 16 Nasty look
- 17 Malt brew
- 18 Moved up and down
- 20 Colorado resort
- 22 Horror flick street
- 23 Owed right now
- 24 Living quarters
- 27 Adorn
- 30 Dog scolding word
- 31 Hertz competitor
- 33 Othello, for one
- 35 Muse of history
- 37 Garden bloom
- 39 Cry of discovery

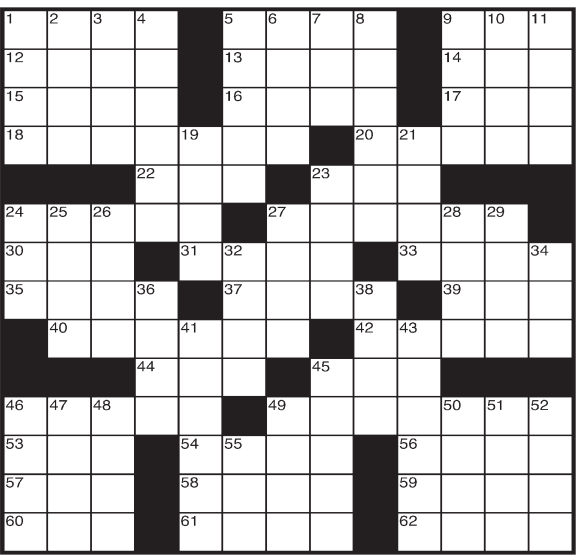
DOWN

- 1 "Me
- 2 "White Wedding" singer
- 3 Arizona river
- 4 Gave a leg up
- 5 Witch trial town
- 6 Spotted, as a horse
- 7 Summer quaff

Answer to Previous Puzzle

FOGGY SPURT
MATURE EARNED
OBTAIN BREADS
ALERT GOAT
NERD BON TOOK
SERE YOE
EOS RISEN PRY
LIE AMBLE SAS
BLEU AMEN
ASSN ECO OHMS
SULK STEEP
LABELS PINATA
IGUANA CLOVER
LAYLA TOWED

- 8 Rove in quest for plunder
- 9 Mound
- 10 Marseilles Ms.
- 11 Manner
- 19 Earnest request
- 21 Give the appearance of
- 23 Hubby of Lucy
- 24 Easy as —
- 25 Island near Java
- 26 Thor's dad
- 27 Fledgling
- 28 Farm structure
- 29 Eye makeup
- 32 French wines
- 34 Oater star — Rogers
- 36 Klempere or
- 38 Volvo rival
- 41 Calls to mind
- 43 Redcap
- 45 Crush
- 46 You, once
- 47 Tunes
- 48 Honey makers
- 49 WWW addresses
- 50 Woody's son
- 51 Pant
- 52 Rapier's kin
- 55 Pro vote



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

	5	3			6			
				5	9	7		
		7		2		4		
3			7	5				1
		4		1		8		
	1			8	9			7
		1		6		2		
			4	3	1			
			2			6	8	

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How to play:

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

8	1	4	2	3	7	9	6	5
3	6	2	1	5	9	8	4	7
7	5	9	4	8	6	1	2	3
1	3	5	9	7	2	6	8	4
2	9	7	8	6	4	3	5	1
4	8	6	3	1	5	7	9	2
9	4	1	7	2	8	5	3	6
5	2	3	6	9	1	4	7	8
6	7	8	5	4	3	2	1	9

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

URROM
MUYTM
SHOOYC
TANETB

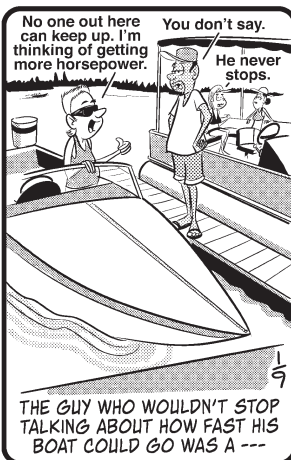
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Answer here: ○○○○○○ ○○○○○○

Yesterday's Jumbles: RUNNY HEDGE ODDITY SLEEPY
Answer: The hotel room was expensive and they had no choice but to — SPEND THE NIGHT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

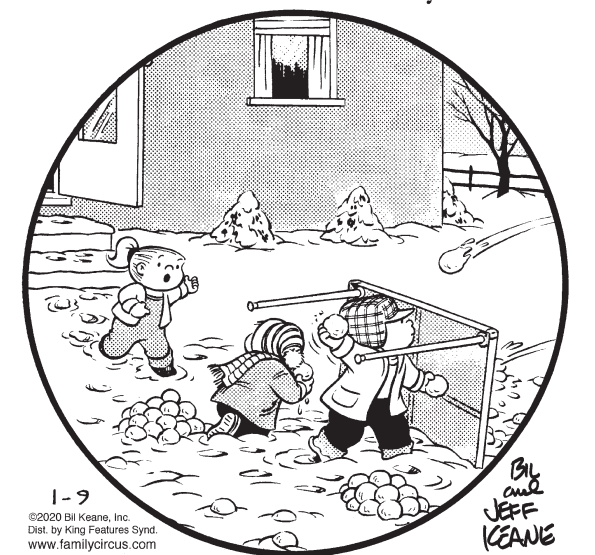
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



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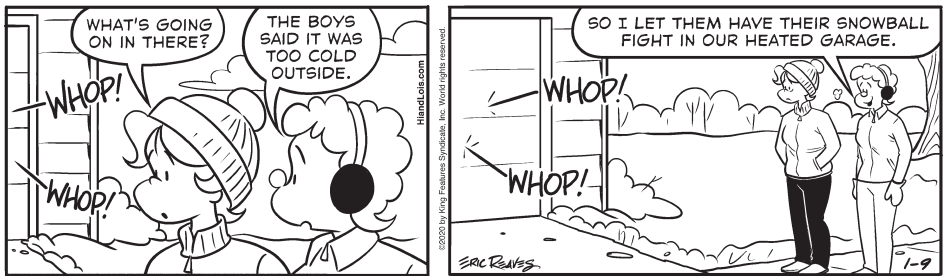
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



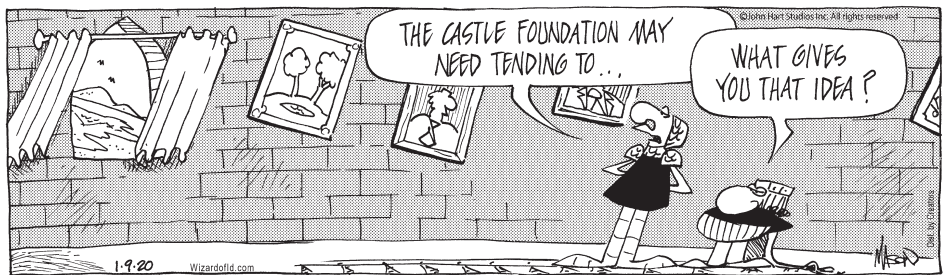
HI & LOIS



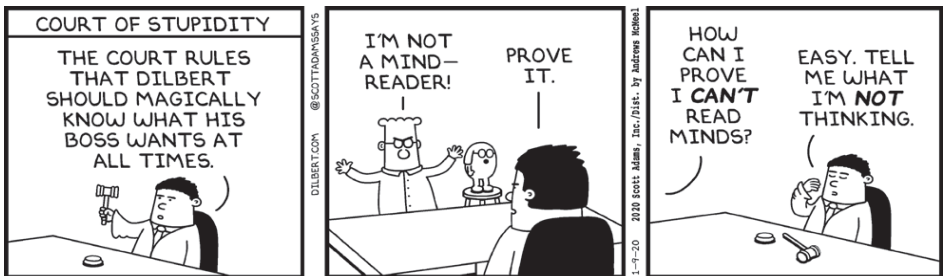
BC



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



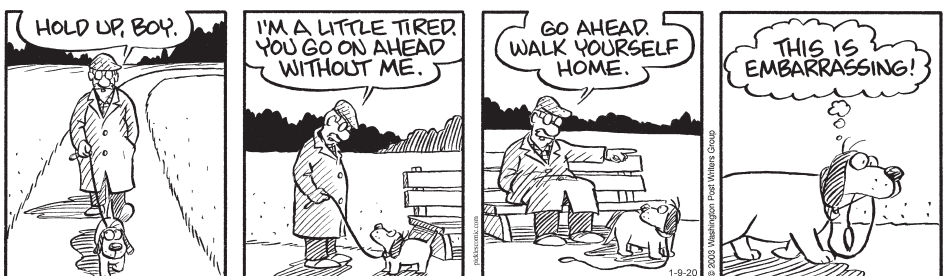
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



God is calling lost souls to come to Him

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: Does God really call out to people? – H.G.

A: Every soul has a story

to tell. Some are gruesome; others miraculous. It is not unusual to hear of campers and hikers losing their way along trails that wind through the rugged forests, thick with brush and prone to rock-slides. It doesn't take long for people to panic, wondering if they will ever be found.

If you found yourself wandering around in the forest with no food or water, no compass, and no communication device, would you be content to remain lost? If someone suddenly called out your name, would you remain hidden? It's doubtful. You would run toward the sound of the voice. God is

calling lost souls to come to Him. Just as He called out to Adam and Eve, He sends out the rescue call to the human race. "Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live" (Isaiah 55:3).

The world is filled with lost and wandering souls. It is wise to ask: What preparation have you made for your soul? If you stop and listen with your ears and your heart, you will hear God's voice. If you ignore Him, you are gambling with your eternal future. If you have rebelled against God, please do not

turn away from this message until you open your heart to Him, because you may not live long enough to go to the Father and be reconciled.

Jesus has His hand outstretched, waiting for the lost to come to Him. When we start down the road to repentance, He does not cast us off and forsake us. He is there to meet us and welcome us home. The Bible says, "If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever" (1 Chronicles 28:9).

CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

" P BEC 'R VWAG KGR KGGAGF SPYG
FEXG KGEKSG. P VWAG JVESG
YGCCGSF EL PHHPWRWPEC."
— JVEEKP TESBZGHT

Previous Solution: "I like a little chaos. I think that's really true for my inner Buddha. ... Maybe I can't take total peace." — Meredith Vieira

TODAY'S CLUE: M sjenba r

Ukrainian airliner crashes in Iran, killing all 176 aboard

BY MOHAMMAD NASIRI, NASSER KARIMI and JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

SHAHEDSHAHR, Iran — A Ukrainian airliner carrying 176 people crashed on the outskirts of Tehran during a takeoff attempt Wednesday hours after Iran launched its missile attack on U.S. forces, scattering flaming debris and passengers’ belongings across farmland and killing everyone on board.

The Iranian military disputed any suggestion the plane had been blown out of the sky by a missile, and Iranian aviation authorities said they suspected a mechanical problem brought down the 3½-year-old Boeing 737. Ukrainian officials initially agreed but later backed away and declined to offer a cause while the investigation is going on.

The Ukraine International Airlines jet was en route to the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv with 167 passengers and nine crew members from several countries, including 82 Iranians, at least 63 Canadians and 11 Ukrainians, according to officials.

Many of the passengers were believed to be international students attending universities in Canada; they were making their way back to Toronto by way of Kyiv after visiting with family during the winter break. The manifest included several teenagers and children, some as young as 1 or 2.

Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy cut short a visit to Oman to return to Kyiv and said a team of Ukrainian experts would go to Tehran to help investigate the crash.

“Our priority is to find the truth and everyone responsible for the tragedy,” he wrote in a Facebook statement.

In Canada, where the crash ranked among the worst losses of life for Canadians in an aviation disaster, the flag over Parliament in Ottawa was lowered to half-staff, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the country is “shocked and saddened.” He vowed the government will work to “ensure that this crash is thoroughly investigated and that Canadians’ questions are answered.”

Major world airlines Wednesday rerouted flights

crossing the Middle East to avoid danger amid escalating tensions between the U.S. and Iran, and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration barred American flights from certain Persian Gulf airspace, warning of the “potential for miscalculation or misidentification” of civilian aircraft.

The plane had been delayed from taking off from Tehran’s Imam Khomeini International Airport by almost an hour. It never made it above 8,000 feet, crashing just minutes after takeoff, according to data from the flight-tracking website FlightRadar24.

Qassem Biniaz, a spokesman for Iran’s Road and Transportation Ministry, said it appeared a fire erupted in one of its engines and the pilot lost control of the plane, according to the state-run IRNA news agency. The news report did not explain how Iranian authorities knew that.

The pilot apparently couldn’t communicate with air-traffic controllers in Tehran in the last moments of the flight, said Hassan Raza-eifar, the head of the air crash investigation committee. He did not elaborate.

Ukraine International Airlines President Yevhen Dykhne, said the aircraft “was one of the best planes we had, with an amazing, reliable crew.” In a statement, the airline went further, saying: “Given the crew’s experience, error probability is minimal. We do not even consider such a chance.”

Gen. Abolfazl Shekarchi, spokesman for the Iranian armed forces, was quoted by the semiofficial Fars news agency as denying the plane has been brought down by a missile.

“The rumors about the plane are completely false and no military or political expert has confirmed it,” he said. He said the rumors were “psychological warfare” by the government’s opponents.

Authorities said they found the plane’s so-called black boxes, which record cockpit conversations and instrument data. But it was not immediately clear how much access to the information the Iranians would allow.

Aviation experts were skeptical about Iran’s ini-

tial claim that the plane was brought down by a mechanical problem.

“I don’t see how they would have known that so quickly,” said John Hansman, an aeronautics professor at MIT. “They hadn’t had time to look at the flight data recorder. They probably hadn’t had time to investigate the physical wreckage of the engines. How do you know it was a mechanical issue versus a surface-to-air missile that went in the engine?”

Many planes have systems that send huge amounts of technical data, including potential problems with the engines or other key systems, to the airline and the manufacturer. But it was unclear whether Ukraine International had paid to download that information automatically during flights, or how much data from such a short flight would tell.

A Boeing spokesman declined to say whether the company obtained any information about the jet during its ill-fated flight.

In 1988, a U.S. Navy cruiser mistakenly shot down an Iranian passenger jet over the Persian Gulf, killing 290 people. Earlier this week, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani referred to that episode in responding to President Donald Trump’s threat to attack 52 targets in Iran.

“Those who refer to the number 52 should also remember the number 290,” Rouhani tweeted. “Never threaten the Iranian nation.”

The Ukrainian plane, fully loaded with fuel for its 1,430-mile flight, slammed into the ground near the town of Shahedshahr, causing fires that lit up the darkened fields before dawn.

Din Mohammad Qassemi said he had been watching the news about the Iranian missile attack on U.S. troops in Iraq in revenge for the killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani when he heard the crash.

“I heard a massive explosion and all the houses started to shake. There was fire everywhere,” he said. “At first I thought (the Americans) have hit here with missiles and went in the basement as a shelter. After a while, I went out and saw a plane has crashed over there. Body parts were lying around ev-

erywhere.”

The crash left a wide field of debris scattered across farmland, the dead lying among pieces of the shattered aircraft. Their possessions, including a child’s cartoon-covered electric toothbrush, a stuffed animal, luggage and electronics, stretched everywhere.

Rescuers in masks shouted over the noise of hovering helicopters. They quickly realized there would be no survivors.

This was the first fatal crash involving Ukraine International Airlines, which began flying in 1992, according to the Aviation Safety Network, which tracks accidents.

As for the Boeing 737-800 model that went down, it an extremely common twin-engine jetliner introduced in the late 1990s, with thousands in use around the world, and has one of the best safety records among popular airliners.

The Aviation Safety Network said there have been eight fatal crashes involving the Boeing 737-800 out of nearly 5,000 built. A Fly-Dubai crash in Russia in 2016 killed 62 people, and an Air India Express disaster in India in 2010 left more than 150 dead.

The 737-800s have been the subject of inspections and repairs since last year, after airlines started reporting cracks in a part that keeps the wings attached to the fuselage.

The jet that went down on Wednesday last underwent routine maintenance on Monday, the airline said.

While the cause of the tragedy remained unknown, the disaster could further damage Boeing’s reputation, which has been battered by furor over two deadly crashes involving the new Boeing 737 Max, which has been grounded for nearly 10 months.

Boeing extended condolences to the victims’ families and said it stands ready to assist. Boeing, like other airline manufacturers, typically helps in crash investigations. But that effort could be thwarted in this case by the U.S. sanctions imposed against Iran since Trump withdrew the United States from the 2015 nuclear deal.

Iranian leader calls missile attack a ‘slap’ at U.S. bases

BY NASSER KARIMI, AMIR VAHDAT and JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran struck back at the United States early Wednesday for killing its most powerful military commander, firing a barrage of ballistic missiles at two Iraqi military bases that house American troops in what the Iranian supreme leader said was a “slap” against the U.S. military presence in the region.

The dramatic blast of more than a dozen missiles caused no casualties, however, and U.S. President Donald Trump said hours later that Iran “appears to be standing down.”

It was a signal that both sides were stepping away from an immediate spiral of more direct exchanges that could throw the Middle East into great turmoil.

Speaking at the White House, Trump said the U.S. would impose new “punishing economic sanctions” on Iran to force it to stop its nuclear program and what he called its “hostilities” in the region. But he also said Washington was open to a deal with Tehran.

Iran, in turn, appeared to have calibrated its attack to avoid stoking further U.S. retaliation, giving some early warning to its Iraqi allies to avoid casualties.

“Last night they received a slap,” Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said of the Americans in a speech after the missile strikes.

He made clear that Iran’s actions were in response to the U.S. killing of Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, whose death last week in a drone strike in Baghdad prompted angry calls for vengeance and drew massive crowds of Iranians to the streets in mourning. Khamenei himself wept at the funeral in a sign of his bond with the commander.

“These military actions are not sufficient (for revenge). What is important is that the corrupt presence of America in this region comes to an end.”

Satellite imagery showed at least five impact sites on the Ain al-Asad base in Iraq’s western Anbar province, each leaving charred blast marks that damaged or destroyed buildings. One obliterated a structure in a row of buildings next to a line of helicopters, though none of the aircraft appeared damaged, according to the imagery provided by Planet Labs, Inc.

Iran’s foreign minister tweeted that Tehran had taken and “concluded proportionate measures in self-defense,” adding that Tehran did “not seek escalation” but would defend itself against further aggression.

Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi said he received notification from Iran just after midnight that its retaliation “was starting or would start soon” and would focus only on U.S. positions. The militaries of Finland and Lithuania, which had personnel at one of the targeted bases, said they received information about an imminent attack and had time to move to shelters or leave the base.

Iran’s attacks “appeared designed for maximum domestic effect with minimum escalatory risk,” said Henry Rome, analyst with Eurasia Group.

“For a president who wants to avoid a war in the Middle East during an election year, the Iranians have provided an off-ramp he will likely take,” Rome said.

Tensions have risen steadily in the Middle East since Trump unilaterally withdrew America from Tehran’s nuclear deal with world powers.

The Iranian attacks on the

bases marked the first time in recent years that Iran has directly attacked U.S. positions rather than through proxies in the region.

Tehran and Washington have been at odds since Iran’s 1979 Islamic Revolution and the subsequent U.S. Embassy takeover and hostage crisis.

Adding to the chaos, a Ukrainian airplane with 176 people crashed after takeoff just outside Tehran on Wednesday morning, killing all on board, Iranian and Ukrainian officials said. Iran said mechanical issues were suspected, although Ukraine declined to offer a cause while an investigation continues.

The Boeing 737-800 had taken off from Imam Khomeini International Airport, bound for the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv. The plane carried 167 passengers and nine crew members. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Vadym Prystaiko said there were 82 Iranians, 63 Canadians and 11 Ukrainians on board – the Ukrainian nationals included two passengers and the nine crew. The rest were Swedish, Afghan, German and British nationals.

The U.S. Federation Aviation Administration earlier warned of a “potential for miscalculation or misidentification” for civilian aircraft in the Persian Gulf. The agency barred U.S. carriers from flying over areas of Iraqi, Iranian and some Persian Gulf countries.

The U.S. has been deploying more troops in the region. U.S. Gulf allies that host thousands of American troops are concerned about a direct conflict. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have called for de-escalation.

“The situation is not currently a war situation,” UAE Energy Minister Suhail Al-Mazrouei said, stressing that Iran is a neighbor and the last thing the country wants is more regional tension.

Iran’s Revolutionary Guard warned the U.S. and its allies against retaliating over the missile attack.

“We are warning all American allies, who gave their bases to its terrorist army, that any territory that is the starting point of aggressive acts against Iran will be targeted,” the Guard said in a statement carried by Iran’s state-run IRNA news agency. It also threatened Israel.

The Iranians fired 15 missiles Wednesday, two U.S. officials said. Ten hit Ain al-Asad and one targeted a base in Irbil in Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdish region. Four failed, said the officials, who were not authorized to speak publicly about a military operation.

“As we evaluate the situation and our response, we will take all necessary measures to protect and defend U.S. personnel, partners and allies in the region,” said Jonathan Hoffman, an assistant to the U.S. defense secretary.

Two Iraqi security officials said a missile appeared to have hit a plane at Ain al-Asad, igniting a fire. There were no immediate reports of casualties from the attacks, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they did not have permission to talk to journalists.

Ain al-Asad was first used by American forces after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled dictator Saddam Hussein, and it later was used by American troops in the fight against the Islamic State group. It houses about 1,500 U.S. and coalition forces. Trump went there in December 2018, making his first presidential visit to troops in the region. Vice President Mike Pence also has visited.

Puerto Ricans left homeless after biggest quake in century

BY DANICA COTO
Associated Press

GUANICA, Puerto Rico — Cars, cots and plastic chairs became temporary beds for hundreds of families who lost their homes in southwest Puerto Rico as a flurry of earthquakes struck the island, one of them the strongest in a century.

The magnitude 6.4 quake that struck before dawn on Tuesday killed one person, injured nine others and knocked out power across the U.S. territory. More than 250,000 Puerto Ricans remained without water on Wednesday and another half a million without power, which also affected telecommunications.

In addition, more than 1,000 people were staying in government shelters in the island’s southwest region as U.S. President Donald Trump declared an emergency and Puerto Rico Gov. Wanda Vázquez activated the National Guard.

The hardest hit municipality was the southwest coastal town of Guánica. More than 200 people had taken shelter in a gymnasium after a quake on Monday, only for the latest shake to damage that structure – forcing them to sleep outside.

Among them was 80-year-old Lupita Martínez, who sat in the dusty parking lot with her 96-year-old husband by her side. He was sleeping in a makeshift bed, a dark blue coat covering him.

“There’s no power. There’s no water. There is nothing.

This is horrible,” Martínez said.

The couple was alone, lamenting that their caretaker had disappeared and was not answering their calls. Like many Puerto Ricans affected by the quake, they had children in the U.S. mainland who urged them to move there, at least until the earth stops shaking.

While officials said it was too early to estimate the total damage caused by the string of quakes that began the night of Dec. 28, they said hundreds of homes and businesses in the southwest region were damaged or destroyed. Just in Guánica, a town of roughly 15,000 people, nearly 150 homes were affected by the quake, along with three schools, including one three-story structure whose first two floors were completely flattened.

In Guánica itself, “We are confronting a crisis worse than Hurricane Maria,” said Mayor Santos Seda, referring to the 2017 storm that devastated the island. “I am asking for empathy from the federal government.”

He said officials believe the homes of 700 families in his municipality are close to collapsing.

Tuesday’s quake was the strongest to hit Puerto Rico since October 1918, when a magnitude 7.3 quake struck near the island’s northwest coast, unleashing a tsunami and killing 116 people.

More than 950 quakes and aftershocks have been recorded in the area of Tues-

day night’s event since Dec. 31, though most were too weak to be felt, according to U.S. Geologic Survey.

The USGS said that while it’s virtually certain there will be many aftershocks in the next week, the chance of a magnitude 6 quake – similar to Tuesday’s – or stronger is around 22 percent.

In Guánica, some people dragged mattresses outside their homes or set up small tents.

Authorities were trying to figure out where to shelter them all as they handed out blankets, food and water to families gathered at the gymnasium for a second night in a row. Many had their belongings in large garbage bags as they sat haphazardly on unstable plastic chairs. Some slept. Others cradled their dogs and many simply stared listlessly into the distance. One elderly man spent an entire day in his wheelchair, refusing to lay down on a cot.

Meanwhile, a handful of people slept in their cars, in chairs or on the ground as cots ran out.

“Now I’m afraid of the house,” said 49-year-old Lourdes Guilbe as she wiped away tears and confided that she felt overwhelmed caring for the nearly dozen relatives gathered around her, including her more than 90-year-old grandfather, who sat in a wheelchair wearing green pajamas and socks.

Guilbe said her home is cracked and her daughter’s home collapsed, so they

weren’t sure where they would live in upcoming days.

Psychologists met with Guilbe and dozens of other people affected by the earthquakes, going door-to-door on Monday in affected neighborhoods and then visiting people in shelters on Tuesday. Among them was Dayleen Ortiz, who set up a speaker on the roof of her car to blast uplifting salsa music and provided crayons and paper to children and urged adults to shake their fears.

“There is a lot of uncertainty,” she said. “We don’t know if this is going to continue.”

One young girl tapped Ortiz on her leg repeatedly: “I want to play beautician,” she said.

Ortiz dug behind cases of water bottles, chairs and blankets in her car and produced eight small new nail polishes and the girl smiled wide. It’s a trick the psychologist learned to entertain children after Hurricane Maria hit, causing an estimated 2,975 deaths and more than \$100 billion in estimated damage.

Reconstruction has been slow, and the earthquake was the newest blow to an island where thousands of people have been living under a blue tarp since the hurricane and the power grid remains fragile.

“I can’t stand this,” said 64-year-old Zenaida Rodríguez as she sat under a tree and the ground again rumbled. “Did you feel that?”

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				 <p>...BECAUSE MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES!</p>

A black and white line drawing of a young boy with a friendly expression, wearing a striped shirt. He is standing behind a wooden crate that serves as a lemonade stand. In his right hand, he holds a glass of lemonade with a straw. Above him is a sign that says "LEMONADE". To his right, there is a small container with a spoon, likely for sugar. The background is simple, with some small tufts of grass at the base of the stand.

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